

Chicago cardinal visits Dome of Rock

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Carefully placing his shoes alongside dozens of others piled around the entrance, the cardinal of Chicago stepped into Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock Sunday. "What I think is important is that there be peace, so that no matter what one's faith may be, one may feel at peace to worship," Cardinal Joseph Bernardin told reporters. Cardinal Bernardin, who also met Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is leading a 15-member delegation of Jews and Catholics from Chicago aimed at fostering dialogue between the two communities. "When we are back home, we think our religions are so different," he said after leaving the gold-topped shrine. "But here in Jerusalem, we see that we really have common roots." Cardinal Bernardin, who arrived last Tuesday, said the most moving part of his visit so far was his walk through along the Via Dolorosa along the route used to reenact the events of Christ's crucifixion. Cardinal Bernardin has also toured Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank and visited the Church of the nativity. On Tuesday he is to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza.

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King vows all help to bridge Israeli-Palestinian differences

HM, in speech at Los Angeles World Affairs Council, says fight against poverty, unemployment is vital

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has said there were "grave difficulties" in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and vowed to help the parties work out their differences.

At a speech in Los Angeles, King Hussein said: "In spite of many grave difficulties, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations continue. We pray for their success."

"And I would reiterate Jordan's commitment to work with all parties concerned at all levels to help bring about a successful conclusion to the various components of the peace process," he said.

King Hussein told the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, a civic group made up of businessmen and local politicians, that Jordan was committed to the spread of peace throughout the Middle East, and not just between Israel and its neighbours.

King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor attended a lunch banquet in their honour hosted by the World Affairs Council at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. King

Panel studies antiquities law

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee entrusted with preparing for a workshop on amending the Jordanian antiquities law held a preliminary meeting at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) on Sunday. The committee members discussed issues to be discussed at the workshop which will be held in April. They reviewed a draft law on antiquities and heritage prepared by Khair Yassin, dean of the faculty of arts at the University of Jordan and professor of oriental history and archaeology. Friends of archaeology Society member Issa Shabani said the draft will be presented to the government's concerned departments for study and approval in view of the dire need for a law encompassing antiquities and heritage.

Hizbullah rejects dialogue with U.S.

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbullah, the main group trying to dislodge Israel from southern Lebanon, on Sunday rejected the possibility of dialogue with Washington and called for a pan-Islamic boycott of the United States. "We've been reading reports in the press that some Arab countries are trying to start a dialogue between the U.S. government and Hizbullah," the party's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, said. "Let all know that we reject any dialogue or any form of contacts with the United States. We are convinced that the United States is the great Satan and the foremost enemy of Islam," Sheikh Nasrallah added.

37 Egyptians held in anti-Israel protests

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police have arrested 37 militants and tortured many of them for protesting against Israel's participation in the Cairo Fair, the Nasserite Arab Democratic Party said Sunday. Most were detained Wednesday and Friday during demonstrations at a Cairo university and fair itself, said the party. The Nasserites, named after late President Gamal Abd al-Nasser, released a list of the 37 people, who included Islamic activists, Marxists and other left-wingers. "The Egyptian people refuse all normalisation with the Zionists," Nasserite Party General Secretary Daud Daoud told a press conference.

Hussein gave the keynote address and later answered questions from the audience.

Mr. Eli Broad, the chairman of the council, introduced the King as a man who has "never ceased to impress his many admirers in shaping the destiny of his country and the people of Jordan."

He praised the King for "removing the people of Jordan from the devastating shadow of war" by his bold decision to sign a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Asked what would happen if Iraq became involved in hostilities with its neighbours, the King said: "We will never support hostilities between Iraq and its neighbours. We will never allow the occupation of Kuwait."

King Hussein said one of the major problems facing the Middle East in its quest for peace was poverty and uncertainty among its peoples.

"Years of conflict have shattered the economies of the Middle East. The massive burdens of defence have wasted our human and material resources. Furthermore, chronic instability has pre-

(Continued on page 7)

vented real development from touching the daily lives of our people," he said.

The result, he added, was "poverty, unemployment and uncertainty as to what the future may hold."

He said the private sector must be allowed to operate freely in the region if domestic and foreign investment was to breathe new life into its exhausted economy.

King Hussein is scheduled to meet with President Bill Clinton Monday in Washington.

The two last met during the peace treaty signing on the Jordanian-Israeli border on Oct. 26.

King Hussein Friday was awarded a peace medal by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, the first time an Arab leader has been so honoured by the influential organisation.

In his speech on Saturday, King Hussein stressed Jordan's unwavering commitment to a just, balanced and comprehensive peace in the region. By providing an "umbrella" for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, Jordan facilitated the

way for the Palestinians to engage in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Israel.

In September 1993, the Palestinians and the Israelis signed the Oslo agreement, which was followed by the Cairo accord, more widely known as the "Gaza-Jericho first." The King reiterated Jordan's commitment to assist all parties concerned to successfully conclude the peace process.

Regarding Jordan's treaty with Israel, which is based on U.N. Resolution 242, King Hussein expressed his pride in Jordan's restoration of all of its territorial and water rights.

However, he stressed that the challenge of peace building lies in creating optimal conditions that will replace the painful legacy of 47 years of conflict, warning that the forces of radicalism opposing the peace process will "find a fertile soil in discontent and hopelessness."

To combat them is to "fight against poverty, unemployment and social exclusion."

JERICO (Agencies) — An Israeli negotiator said on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel could meet a July 1st deadline to conclude an accord on elections of a Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We can complete the job on elections by July," said Yoel Singer after meeting Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Mr. Singer told reporters progress was made last month when the sides moved from months of exchanging papers to joint drafting of an election accord. But he said there were still key gaps.

"There are several points on which we differ such as participation of Palestinians in Jerusalem in elections, agreed supervision; and the number of seats in the Palestinian council," Dr. Erekat said.

Mr. Singer and Dr. Erekat, chief negotiators, met for three hours in the West Bank Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho on Sunday ahead of the next round of negotiations in Cairo on Tuesday.

They told reporters that talks on Tuesday would focus on the structure of the Palestinian council to be elected.

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Israel says Palestinian poll date can be met

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Bahrain, UAE ministers arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — Bahraini Minister of Trade and Agriculture Habib Ahmad Qassem, who is also head of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development's (AOAD) executive board, arrived here Sunday on several-day official visit to Jordan to take part in the AOAD's third executive board session which starts here today (Monday). Mr. Qassem was received upon arrival by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif. United Arab Emirates Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Said Al Raqqani also arrived here Sunday to take part in the AOAD's meetings.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with U.S. actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife broadcast jour-

Aziz rejects U.N. draft on limited oil exports

Washington seeks to free Americans sentenced to jail

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Sunday rejected a draft U.N. resolution aimed at allowing Baghdad to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every three months to help it buy food and medicine for its people.

Iraq also pledged defiance against the United States in virulent press attacks, but remained silent on the jailing of two Americans announced by Washington.

The daily Al Thawra, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, wrote: "America believes it can rule the world but Iraq will never bow down."

"America is more and more impotent and its interference in the region proves to people that it is only seeking to protect its

own interests," said Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

There was no reference to an announcement by the U.S. State Department that two Americans had been jailed for eight years for "illegal entry" into Iraq.

The State Department said it was trying through diplomatic channels to secure the release of William Bardeen and David Deliberti.

The White House said it planned to work chiefly outside the United Nations for the release of the two Americans sentenced to eight years in prison for illegally entering Iraq.

"I'm not going to comment at all on any kind of conditions here with regards to these two. These two made an innocent mistake. They should be released," he said.

Mr. Panetta added that the

(Continued on page 3)

Algerian offensive killed more than 600 — report

ALGIERS (Agencies) — An Algerian newspaper reported Sunday that a government offensive against militants in the Ain Defla region, 150 kilometres west of Algiers,

meeting of their movement. Some who escaped the carnage were surrounded in dense forest at the weekend and "have practically no chance of escaping the Algerian army special forces," said La Tribune, another Algerian daily.

Algerian commentators said the fact that the newspapers were allowed to carry the reports appeared to be tacit official confirmation of the operation.

Algeria's military-backed authorities rigorously control what security issues can be carried by the country's media and neither newspaper mention army casualties in the battle against well-armed militants.

La Tribune said on Sunday that the killing of women had caused conflict between the two main armed groups fighting to topple the authorities.

The GLA, considered more ruthless than the AIS, had "disarmed some AIS members and threatened them with death," the newspaper said.

It added that the rivalry between the two would at least help the security forces in their battle against the Islamists.

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They have not been seen since.

At least 12 Algerian

(Continued on page 7)

Kurds defiant in face of Turkish push

ENZE, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish rebels hiding near the northern Iraqi village of Enze said Sunday the Turkish army had failed to destroy their camp or surround their positions in a massive operation involving 35,000 troops.

"The Turkish troops can never surround us completely. The terrain is too hilly, difficult, unknown for them," an official of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) told AFP.

La Tribune quoted a statement from the regional leadership of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) damning the rival armed Islamic Group (GLA) for "barbarous acts against women, kidnapped and raped, (and) considered as war captives."

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Rabin, Netanyahu in war of words

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has launched an attack of unprecedented ferocity on the right-wing Likud Party, prompting opponents to suggest he has "lost his head" after a new setback in opinion polls.

The latest survey published Sunday showed that Mr. Rabin would lose to Mr. Netanyahu if general elections were held now, winning just 40 per cent of the vote to the Likud leader's 60 per cent.

Seventy-one per cent of Israelis are also "unhappy" with the performance of Mr. Rabin's government, according to the survey of 1,220 Israelis by the Jaffa Institute of Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

The survey's results were greatly influenced by a wave of Muslim suicide bombings which have killed 68 Israelis since the launch of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho to May, the institute said.

In a January opinion poll 23 per cent of Israelis said they would vote for Mr. Rabin compared with 25 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu.

In November Mr. Rabin was seven points ahead of his right-wing rival, with 29 per cent of the votes.

Support for the September 1993 autonomy accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) dropped 36 per cent with an equal proportion against. A survey conducted by the think tank a year earlier showed the accord was favoured 43 to 32 per cent.

A majority of 53 per cent favor talks with the PLO, but the percentage was off from

(Continued on page 7)

League decries Turkish push

THE ARAB League, chided by Iraq for its silence on Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq, denounced the campaign Sunday as a breach of international sovereignty.

Nabil Nejm, Iraq's representative to the Arab League, had criticised it for failing to condemn the invasion.

"What is the Arab position on the threats to Arab national security?" Mr. Nejm asked in a statement issued last week.

The Kurds, many of whom said they had already fled heavy-handed tactics by Turkish security forces fighting PKK rebels last year, unloaded possessions — including chickens and sheep — on arrival.

(Continued on page 7)

Torture on rise in Palestinian jails, rights groups warn

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Drug dealers and alleged Israeli informers are increasingly subjected to beatings and torture during interrogation in Palestinian jails, human rights activists say.

Interrogators do not use torture systematically, they say, but have resorted to it more and more since a clash between Palestinian police and Islamists that left 13 people dead last November 18.

Palestinian authorities blamed Israeli "collaborators" for triggering the violence in an attempt to ignite a civil war.

Gaza police hauled in known informers after a Nov. 2 car bomb killed Hani Abed, a leader of the Islamic Jihad group. The authorities blamed Israel.

Since the killings, complaints of torture during interrogation have risen, said Ahmad Sayyad, a lawyer with the Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners, based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Ramallah.

"The information we have is that it is being used especially on collaborators and drug dealers," he said.

"There is torture, it is practised widely," said Mazen Shakkur of the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, a human rights organisation affiliated to the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists.

Palestinian police have tortured two Palestinians to death — one, an alleged informer, in the autonomous enclave of Jericho in January and another in Gaza last July. None of the officers involved have been punished, reports say.

Mr. Shakkur said the centre was handling about seven cases of torture.

"The prosecution only finds out if a family complains," but relatives of suspected collaborators are usually afraid to talk," Mr. Shakkur said.

Police sources said in a recent wave of arrests in southern Gaza, interrogators beat suspected collaborators unconscious, leaving bloodstains on the walls of interrogation rooms.

Yousef suspected of role in bombing in Mashad

KARACHI (AFP) — Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, accused of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, may also be linked to a bomb blast in Iran last year which left 25 people dead, a police report received here Sunday said.

The report, obtained here by AFP, also revealed details of an failed plot to kill Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Yousef was named as the man who carried out the bombing in Mashad, by Abdul Shakoor who was arrested in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar this month, along with five other men suspected of involvement in the blast.

All six — three Sudanese, two Pakistanis and one man who is believed to be Iranian — are thought to be associates of Yousef.

Yousef was extradited from Pakistan to the United States in connection with the 1993 New York bombing last month. In a statement released through his New York lawyer on Friday, Yousef acknowledged he was an "explosives expert."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Le Prince Et La Sirène
17:30 Pyramide
18:00 D'Argent Amour
19:00 News in French
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:30 Diving in the Red Sea
21:00 South Beach
22:00 News in English
22:20 Scarlet and Black
23:00 Feature film: "Judgement Day"

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:27 (Savine) Dhuhr
11:41 Dhuhr
15:11 'Asr
17:35 Maghreb
19:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieqha, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
De Salis Church Tel. 661757
Tannourine Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Turkish incursion into Iraq

An alleged drug dealer, Ayad Abu Shaluf, was left hanging by his feet for weeks in a prison cell, said a friend, who requested anonymity. He said the attorney general had agreed to allow Mr. Abu Shaluf's family to visit him in jail, but security officials still prevented them from seeing him.

Attorney General Khaled Al Qudra said "torture is banned, and if I receive complaints I look into them."

Former Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman Hasan Ashrawi, who heads the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights, commented that while torture allegations had risen recently, it can't conclude that it is systematic.

However, she charged Israel with "systematically attempting to recruit people in the autonomous areas to work as agents."

According to Dr. Ashrawi and the Gaza Centre's Shakkur, political detainees are spared heavy-handed methods, and are barely even questioned, let alone charged.

These include several dozen members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement and the smaller Islamic Jihad as well as the leftist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Islamic Jihad leader Abdullah Shami, held for more than a month, told lawyers visiting him in jail that he had not been questioned at any point during his detention, Mr. Shakkur said.

The first cases to go soon before a new military court are expected to be alleged collaborators, and not anti-Israeli militants.

The state security court, which has military judges and prosecutors, was created last month by PLO chief Yasser Arafat amid heavy Israeli pressure to rein in militants in his self-rule areas after a string of suicide bombings.

Rights groups have charged Israel with systematically torturing Palestinian suspects.

The preservation of the status of the Arab World within the new world order requires of us to overcome all differences and to walk forward with a new vision," Mr. Dembri told a news conference.

This is the message that we wish to convey to all those who care about the joint destiny (of Arabs)," he said before he left Kuwait for the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait's ties with most North African states, including Algeria, were strained by what the emir regarded as their sympathy for Iraq during the crisis.

Before the invasion, North African states were recipients of large Kuwaiti development assistance. Kuwait stopped or curtailed the assistance after its 1991 liberation.

The seven-month 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait divided Arabs into those who supported a U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraqi troops from the emirate and those who opposed it.

"What matters is how to treat these wounds and build for the joint future, because we have to co-exist..." Mr. Dembri said.

He refused to comment on Kuwaiti demands for recompensation with Iraq's friends, which include condemning the invasion and using their ties with Baghdad to secure the release of some 600 people who Kuwait says are held by Iraq. Baghdad denies the charge.

Mr. Dembri said he delivered a letter from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and held talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah on economic cooperation.

French policy denounced

To critics of "visa equals a life," some 3,000 people demonstrated Saturday against France's visa policy towards Algerians, saying it endangers

Two other men also believed to be associates of Yousef were detained this week in this southern port city of Karachi, police said.

The report also gave details of the allegations were immediately available and Peshawar police refused to comment.

Muneem, according to Shakoor, lives in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta.

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Prince Abdullah, the Regent, Sunday visits Royal Jordanian (RJ) headquarters where he was received by RJ acting Chairman of the Board of Directors Walid Kurdi and RJ Command and met with the Air Force President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi. Prince Abdullah was briefed on measures taken by the national air carrier to improve its services and meet future developments. Also Sunday, received by RJ acting Chairman of the Regent visited the Royal Air Force Command and met with the Air Force chief of staff.

Workshop promotes Turkish commodities

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day workshop aiming to promote Turkish commodities in Jordan opened Sunday in Amman.

The workshop, organised by the Turkish embassy in Amman in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, also aims to study the possibility of launching Jordanian-Turkish joint ventures.

An exhibition of Turkish products and meetings between Jordanian and Turkish businessmen will be organised on the sidelines of the workshop, in which representatives of private sector establishments from both countries are participating.

In an opening address, federation President Haidar Murad stressed the important role of the private sector in increasing the volume of

trade exchange between the two countries.

Mr. Murad said trade exchange between the two countries was still below expectations, noting that Jordanian imports from Turkey last year stood at \$91 million, while it exported to Turkey only \$15 million worth of commodities.

He said the investment climate in Jordan has improved and is witnessing a tendency towards activating the role of the private sector and updating and developing legislation to fit the new trends and attract foreign investments.

He called on Turkey to play an active role in the international economic summit which will be held in Amman in October and said he hoped that the summit will achieve promising results in promoting investment oppor-

tunities in Jordan.

President of the Turkish Industrial and Commercial Society Erol Yizir stressed the importance of the private sector in the world economy and the need to have laws protecting this sector.

Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Irtemci said in an address that Jordanian-Turkish commercial and economic ties were good, but that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries was well below expectations.

He said swift changes in the world require closer cooperation between Arab and Islamic countries and he said he hoped that the workshop will be the start for stronger trade and economic ties between Jordan and Turkey.

'Shobak agricultural centre to find fruit trees suitable to area'

SHOBAK (Petra) — The Shobak Regional Agricultural Research Centre has assigned 50 dunums of land to conduct research on fruit trees in order to determine which are most suitable to areas in South Jordan, centre Director Isma'il Tuweisi said.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Tuweisi said the centre is testing various types of apple, peach, apricot, cherry, and pear trees to select those most suitable and distribute them to Ministry of Agriculture stations and to farmers.

He said the services of the centre, one of six affiliated to the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT), cover the governorates of Ma'an, Aqaba and Tafileh which make up 52 per cent of the Kingdom's total area.

He said these regions are popular apple tree planting areas where about 10,000 dunums are planted with about one million apple trees.

Mr. Tuweisi said other areas in these governorates with an altitude of less than 800 metres above sea level are planted with olive trees, grapevines and vegetables.

Iraq rejects U.N. plan

(Continued from page 1)

United States was pursuing a variety of diplomatic channels to ensure that they're released quickly." He did not elaborate.

He declined comment on a suggestion Saturday by Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, one of the Republican Party's most influential voices on foreign policy, that the United States should explore possible military options.

Asked whether the United States was considering military retaliation against Iraq, he replied: "I'm not going to comment on what the president does or does not consider with regard to that area."

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said "the new American draft (for Iraqi oil sales) just a manoeuvre to deceive international opinion and prolong the embargo," which the United Nations imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekkeus wound up a mission here saying he had held very business-like, serious and substantive technical discussions with General Amer Rashid, head of Iraq's military industrialisation organisation.

Mr. Ekkeus, head of the U.N. special mission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM),

was on a four-day mission to Baghdad aimed at filling the gaps in information on Iraq's germ warfare programme.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf

Sunday insisted Baghdad had no biological weapons.

"We have no biological weapons. Ekkeus and the Americans know Iraq has no military programme in that field," Mr. Sahaf told the Egyptian opposition daily Al Wafd.

Mr. Aziz said the latest U.N. draft resolution, drawn up by the United States, Britain and Argentina, was "just an attempt to delay the lifting of the blockade."

"It is stupid to think this draft would end or ease the suffering of the Iraqi people," Mr. Aziz told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Two previous U.N. resolutions allowing Iraq to export \$1.6 billion worth of oil over six months were rejected by Baghdad as a violation of its sovereignty.

The sales were to be closely monitored by the United Nations and some of the proceeds were to go to U.N. operations in Iraq.

Mr. Aziz rejected claims that the draft resolution would increase the amount of money Iraq would have to

spend on food and medicine. He said it would only allow Baghdad to spend \$7 million on food for each of its 18 million citizens, "which is less than a quarter of the current value of the ration ticket."

"The only way to end the Iraqi people's suffering is to apply unconditionally paragraph 22 of Resolution 687," which calls for the complete lifting of oil sanctions once the U.N. ensures that its system for long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons programmes is fully operational, Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Ekkeus, a Swedish diplomat, said Sunday he had held several rounds of technical talks with Gen. Rashid and was to meet him again along with Mr. Aziz late Sunday.

He told AFP he would travel to Kuwait Monday "to get a feeling of the situation there... I will discuss security and other issues."

Mr. Ekkeus failed in his last visit in February to obtain data on Iraq's biological weapons programme developed before the 1991 Gulf war, which the U.N. insists was offensive and Baghdad says was defensive.

He submitted a report on UNSCOM's activities to the Security Council by April 10.

Third World Academy of Sciences, RSS award second annual prize to young Jordanian scientist

By Jennifer Hamraeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Sunday awarded its annual prize for its young scientists competition to Nabil Qassem Hallat, supervisor of veterinary services at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The competition is open to Jordanian scientists, resident in Jordan and under the age of 40.

The announcement of the competition indicates which of the fields of pure science — chemistry, biology, mathematics and physics — the competition will be open to. The idea here, explained Mrs. Talhoumi, is to rotate the four fields each year.

Dr. Hallat's research on protein markers in cancer was selected among the works submitted by 39 other Jordanian scientists.

TWAS, which was established in 1983, and is based in Trieste, Italy, sees the competition as a means of identifying young talented scientists through the recognition of their abilities and therefore promoting their creativity, said TWAS Unit Coordinator at the Royal Scientific Society Majd Khayyat Talhoumi.

In 1992, TWAS invited the RSS to implement the award programme in Jordan.

The RSS, which enters its 25th year as the country's leading research and de-

velopment institution, accepted the invitation as an opportunity to advance research efforts in the country and to encourage young scientists to pursue work which would ultimately serve the nation's development process, according to Mrs. Talhoumi.

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Last year's winner, Hassan Abdulla Al Salah of Ma'ta University took the prize in chemistry.

With Dr. Hallat's winning work in biology this year, the competition for the coming two years will consider works in mathematics and physics,

Mrs. Talhoumi said.

The work submitted can be an article, research paper or invention (with supporting documents) and must be written in English, she said.

It must also be original, that is, it cannot be extracted from the candidate's masters or Ph.D. theses, nor should it be work that was partially or fully submitted in any other competition which the candidate has won, Mrs. Talhoumi

stressed.

The work must be a coherent research endeavour rather than a series of unrelated works, and, it is preferable that it be published in a specialised periodical of high calibre during the past three years prior to the year of submission to TWAS.

A panel of four to eight reviewers, selected by the RSS for their expertise in the pure sciences, is given a complete set of the written works with the author's names deleted to ensure total impartiality, Mrs. Talhoumi explained.

She noted that since the announcement of the first competition in Jordan in 1993, applicants to the

TWAS competition jumped more than 60 per cent in the second year, from 24 applicants submitting 66 research works in 1993, to 39 applicants submitting 99 works in 1994 (including series works).

With the announcement today of the TWAS \$2,000 prize winner, the TWAS Unit at the RSS begins to put out its call for contestants for next year's prize.

Besides placing advertisements in the local Arabic and English dailies, the TWAS Unit notifies all universities, colleges, technical institutions and other scientific establishments as well as ministries and concerned government departments in a nation-wide effort to reach all potential applicants.

Applications are accepted until the end of October, 1995.

For his series of 17 papers on protein markers in cancer, Dr. Hallat was awarded the TWAS prize at a ceremony at the Royal Scientific Society presided over by RSS Vice President Said Alloush.

Dr. Hallat first studied

veterinary medicine in Thessaloniki, Greece. He obtained his Ph.D. in pathology from Wayne State University in the U.S. and did two years of post doctoral work on proteins in cancer at the University of Michigan. He returned to Jordan in 1990 and began teaching at JUST's Veterinary Medicine Section.

Al Watan publishes new political party weekly

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new party publication, 'Al Nida', issued last week, brought the total number of political party newspapers in the Kingdom to eight.

'Al Nida' (the call) is the newspaper of Al Watan, a conservative right of centre party. The weekly obtained a licence to publish on Jan. 12, but the first issue appeared only last Wednesday.

Although those in charge of 'Al Nida' say the paper will be the forum for all writers and is willing to adopt different points of view, the first issue has the party's flavour.

On the front page, concise news items tackled mainly parliamentary life in Jordan and the Palestinian question; these were flanked on either side by two editorials. The first, describes party life in Jordan and the enormous task that awaits political parties to enhance democracy. It was written by Akef Al Fayez, secretary general of Al Watan party and former Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

The second editorial was written by 'Al Nida' Chief Editor Bahjat Majali, who is a former director of the Royal Geographic Centre.

Mr. Majali, who ran unsuccessfully for the 1993 par-

liamentary elections, said that the decision to issue 'Al Nida' came after a lengthy period of consideration and in-depth analysis of party publications.

He said he anticipated numerous difficulties, mainly the restraining laws "that have nothing to do with (democratic) changes in the Kingdom."

Inside pages focused on parliamentary life. Sensational news were absent, but cynical comments were evident.

One short anecdote under the headline of "Listening to lectures by force," told the story of a Sheikh who constantly gives religious lectures on public buses travelling from Zarqa to Amman.

"The passengers, whether they like it or not, have to listen to the sheikh's lectures that usually deal with ways to combat (Arab-Israeli) peace," the newspaper commented.

A full page was dedicated to an interview with Munther Masri, secretary general of the Ministry of Education, on the issue of cultural normalisation. The headline quoted Dr. Masri as saying that the change in school curriculum is in Jordan's interest more than it is in Israel's."

On the cultural page, 'Al Nida' published a long interview with Jamal Naji, who

ran for the Jordanian Writers Association last elections and lost his bid to Mu'min Razzaz.

Another page was dedicated to investigative reporting, another to foreign issues and one to sports.

On the back, light and short items, half of them dedicated to celebrations of the publication's first issue, filled up to page.

The newspaper is expected to publish supplements on special issues.

'Al Nida's managing editor, Samira Awad, said management was ready to publish all points of view. The paper, she said, cannot, however, be considered an opposition newspaper.

'Al Nida' is printed at Al Ra'i printing press. Around

35 employees work at 'Al Nida'; 20 of them are reporters and writers. Most of them have experience in other Jordanian newspapers.

Ms. Awad said the management will try to attract some good writers who, otherwise, are not being afforded the opportunity to write in other established newspapers.

NMC, American Centre to introduce Mingo Saldivar in conjunto performance



Mingo Saldivar
A native of San Antonio, Saldivar's popularity as an accordionist and songwriter is the result of a dedicated and varied career as a musician. At age 11, Saldivar already mastered the drums and guitar and was touring local dance halls playing tirololoche (upright bass) with Los Chavilos.

With influences from rock and rhythm and blues (R&B), his accordion style featured rapid fingering, accentuated phrasing and extended melody lines.

Taking his cue from pop music performers, Saldivar's vibrant stage personality earned him the beloved title "The Dancing Cowboy." In the mid 70s, Saldivar formed his current group, Los Tremendos Cuatro Espadas, which continues to

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Raphael: the Apprentice Years, the Prince of Painters, Legend and Legacy" (Part III) (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khaleel) at Darat Al Funun at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "La Sentinel" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

SECOND AMMAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

- ★ Plays (in Arabic) entitled "Umm Al Kheish" and "The Eyes of Maria and Sindbad" respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

- ★ Round-table discussion entitled "La Paz En Oriente Medio" (Peace in the Middle East) at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 5:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by Ah Al Ansari at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION

- ★ Presentation on enjoying literature by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Plants of the Bible" by Dr. Nigel Hopper at the Friends of Archaeology Center at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hamoud Chantout at the Balqa' Art Gallery, Fuheis.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Yousef Badawi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Ahmed Al Babil and Mohammed Ali at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of books dealing with Arab and Islamic subjects at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by 'Alia' Ammouna and oil paintings by Salman 'Abbas at Orifati Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.

Japan closes in on sect with new evidence, charge

KAMIKO ISHIKI, Japan (Agencies) — Police Sunday's said they uncovered a chemical warehouse and laboratory at the complex of a doomsday cult linked to Tokyo's subway nerve gas attack and looked set to raid the site again Monday.

"We can't remove any more evidence this evening," a senior official told reporters. "But we plan to prepare it all for shipment early tomorrow morning."

Bad weather and nightfall caused police to halt the search of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) complex in the village of Kamikoi Isiki at the foot of Mt Fuji, 100 kilometres west of Tokyo.

Police were tight-lipped about details from Sunday's raid, which entered a new phase as authorities sought evidence to back up murder plot charges against the cult.

One member of the 1,000-man police squad which carried blowtorches and chainsaws into the compound told reporters the underground bunker that was the focus of the day's raid was a warehouse. He also described an adjacent building that was searched.

"That (separate) building with pipes coming out of the side is some kind of laboratory," said the officer.

Observers at the com-

pound said they appeared poised for more extensive searches Monday.

"We could be here for quite a while," said the senior official when asked how long the searches would continue.

Officers clad in heavy chemical warfare outfit carried sturdy, sealable vessels into the building they described as a laboratory replacing the cardboard boxes they had earlier prepared to remove as evidence.

New evidence from the compound included chemical samples matching ones taken from last Monday's subway attack and an unsolved nerve gas case last July, Kyodo News Agency said.

It said police laboratory analysis showed residue from the three samples — from the complex, the subway and the site of last July's attack — was methylphosphine acid diisopropyl and related substances.

The chemical compound is a by-product of the deadly nerve gas sarin, identified as the agent in the three cases.

The analysis proved the same people produced the three samples using an identical method, Kyodo said. Chemical experts say Sarin can be produced in a variety of ways.

A spokesman for Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department said he could not con-

firm the analysis reports.

The raids started Wednesday, two days after nerve gas attacks on Tokyo subway trains during the morning rush hour killed 10 people and injured 5,000.

Until Saturday, the raids were based on an abduction charge. Police said Sunday's new charge was "murder preparation" — used against anyone preparing weapons or poisonous materials with intent to murder.

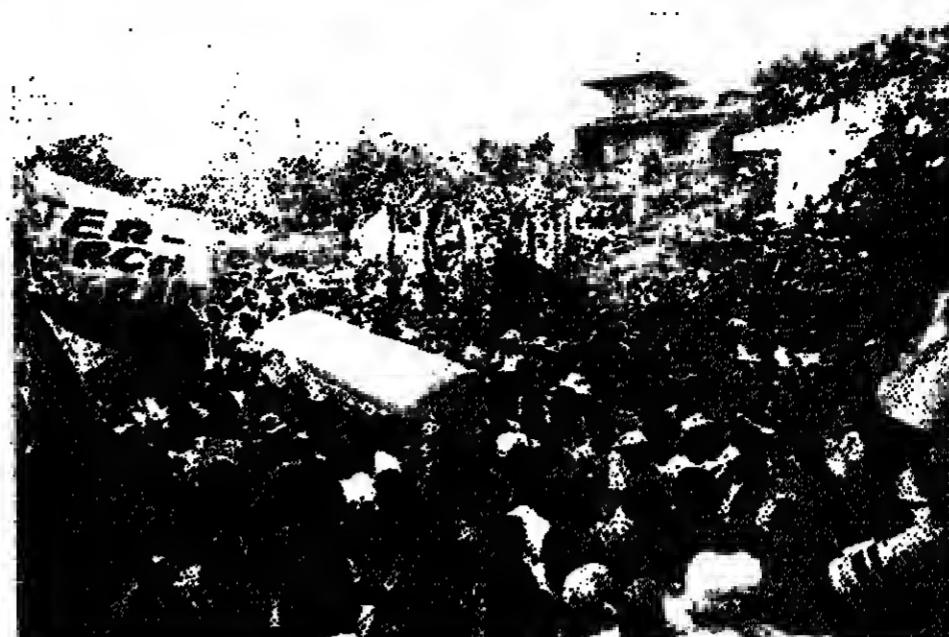
A branch of the Japanese religious sect Aum Supreme Truth has been detected in southern Sri Lanka, The Island newspaper said in Colombo Sunday.

The leader of the local branch located in the southern port city of Galle has been identified, the newspaper said, quoting informed sources. However, it did not give the name of the sect leader.

"Authorities were tight-lipped and unable to explain the presence of members of this organisation," the newspaper said.

Senior police officers in Galle said they were unaware of any secret branch in the region. "So far we have not heard anything from our intelligence division about this. But we will check," a senior police officer said.

The Aum Supreme Truth has been propagating a secret faith that is said to combine elements of Hinduism and Buddhism. Sri Lanka, like Japan, is a predominantly Buddhist nation.



Filipina maid Flor Contemplacion's coffin is carried to church amid a surging crowd prior to her burial. Ms. Contemplacion, 42, a mother of four, was hanged in Singapore last March 17 for a double murder. Her death has inflamed national anger in the Philippines and seriously damaged Manila's ties with Singapore because of a popular belief that she was innocent. Singapore has said evidence against her was strong (AFP photo)

Executed Filipina gets martyr's funeral

SAN PABLO, Philippines (R) — A mother of four

hanged in Singapore after confessing to two murders received a martyr's funeral Sunday, hailed as a symbol of abashed Filipino migrant workers worldwide.

About 40,000 people lined the streets of San Pablo, the home town of 42-year-old maid Flor Contemplacion, who was executed in Singapore's Changi Jail on March 17 for the 1991 killings despite impassioned Philippine pleas for a postponement.

"She is a symbol of millions of Filipinos driven by poverty to take their chances abroad," Roman Catholic Bishop Teodoro Bacani said at a requiem mass in the town's crowded cathedral.

"Their lot is pathetic. Their own government neglects them," he added, evoking applause from the congregation.

The poor South East Asian nation is heavily dependent on the more than \$2 billion sent home annually by an estimated three million Filipinos, mostly women, who work overseas.

Employed as housemaids or hotel workers from the Gulf to the islands of the South Pacific, they complain of frequent abuse such as beatings, rape and official harassment.

The ABB has killed scores of what it alleged were corrupt government officials in the Philippines.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, deplored the bombing and urged people to heed President Fidel Ramos' call for "sobriety and objectivity during this critical time."

Bishop Bacani, speaking at the funeral, acknowledged international puzzlement over the intensity of the Philippines' reaction to the execution, which has led to a diplomatic rift with Singapore. But Singapore's refusal to postpone the hanging was inhuman, he said. "All we were asking for was a stay of her execution for a few days."

Many Filipinos believe Ms. Contemplacion was innocent of killing another Filipina maid and a three-year-old Singaporean boy in 1991. They point to the allegation of another Filipina maid who came forward four years after the murders to say that Ms. Contemplacion had been framed.

The ABB has said it would impose what it called "revolutionary justice" — its usual term for death — on Philippine officials and Singaporeans it says are to blame for Ms. Contemplacion's execution.

"I would like to thank the Filipina people who have joined us in our fight for justice. Let us continue the struggle for justice for my mother," Ms. Contemplacion's 17-year-old daughter, Russell, said at the mass.

She spoke before her mother's open, white metal coffin.

Squatter camp schoolgirl becomes millionaire

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— A schoolgirl from a squatter camp near the south coast city of Port Elizabeth Saturday became an instant millionaire when she won a slot machine jackpot, hotel group Sun International said. In a statement, the group said the schoolgirl, whom they did not name, won the Million Mania jackpot at Sun International's Amatola Sun Hotel at Bisho, 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Port Elizabeth. The girl spent 22.5 rand (\$6.25) and won 1,026,956 rand (\$285,262), the statement said. It added that the girl planned to use the money to build a house for her parents, who are extremely poor, and to fund her studies.

Panda saved by blood donation from two bears

BEIJING (AFP) — The only giant panda in the world to be born and raised in captivity has escaped death thanks to a blood transfusion from two black bears.

Earlier Sunday two grenades exploded outside the Foreign Ministry and a Singapore Airlines office in Manila. No casualties were reported and there was only minor damage.

The leftist Alex Boncaya Brigade (ABB) claimed responsibility for the blasts and warned of further action. It said in a statement: "This signals the beginning of the ABB's hunt for those responsible for the death of Flor and other OCWS (Overseas Contract Workers) in similar predicaments."

The ABB has said it would impose what it called "revolutionary justice" — its usual term for death — on Philippine officials and Singaporeans it says are to blame for Ms. Contemplacion's execution.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, deplored the bombing and urged people to heed President Fidel Ramos' call for "sobriety and objectivity during this critical time."

They also complain that although the government hails them as national heroes for their contribution to the economy, it does nothing to help them when they need it.

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Loud Chinese city fines noisy residents

BEIJING (R) — China's cacophonous southern boomtown Guangzhou has cracked down on noisy residents, fining 27 work units a total of 120,000 yuan (\$14,300) for noise pollution, the China Daily said Saturday.

People almost everywhere in the city, an economic powerhouse with numerous construction sites, dance halls and traffic-clogged roads, face noise levels above 50 decibels — similar to standing next to an air-conditioner, it said. A karaoke bar and PepsiCo's Guangzhou branch were among the 27 units fined a total of 120,000 yuan for emitting more than 70 decibels of noise, the newspaper said.

More than 60 other units were warned to reduce their noise emissions, it said.

3 London girls guilty of robbing model Hurley

LONDON (R) — Three teenage girls accused of robbing British model Elizabeth Hurley, the new face of Estee Lauder cosmetics, were found guilty. The three had denied robbing Hurley of £16 (\$16) at knifepoint on a quiet, elegant street in London's South Kensington district last November. A fourth pleaded guilty. Judge Gerald Butler, who adjourned the case until April 12 for sentencing, said: "I have in mind a custodial sentence."

The jury at Southwark Crown Court in South London took just one hour to reach their decision. Hurley, 29, whose actor boyfriend Hugh Grant starred in the low-budget hit film Four Weddings And A Funeral, flew in from New York earlier this week to testify at the trial. The model, who shot to fame wearing a revealing dress held together with safety pins at the premiere of Grant's film, told the court that one of the girls had held a knife "about an inch from my stomach."

The actress, who recently signed a modeling contract with Estee Lauder, reported to be worth £3 million (\$4.7 million), said she gave her assailants £10 (about \$16). "They sort of sneered and said that's not enough. They said something like 'we can't get some big macs with that' and said 'give us your purse,'" she told the court. She escaped from her attackers when she ran into the road and waved down a passing van driver.

Meanwhile, troops of the Burmese military junta suffered nearly 100 casualties in a battle against oppn. warlord Khun Sa's Maung Tai Army (MTA), a Thai military-run television channel said Saturday.

Thirty-two Burmese troops were killed and 60 others wounded in a two-and-a-half-hour clash Friday with the MTA at Ban Fang Ko to the east of the country, about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Thai border, Channel 7 said.

Khun Sa lost six men, the station said, without providing any numbers of personnel from either side engaged in the firefight.

The station also said that Rangoon troops and the MTA had clashed against early Saturday in a battle lasting three hours at Ban Pang Pak Kud, about 20 kilometres from Thailand's Mae Sai district. No casualty figures from the incident were however available.

Berlin climate conference has modest aims

BERLIN (R) — Some 160 countries gather Tuesday for a U.N. conference to find ways to stop the warming of the Earth's atmosphere and stave off what many scientists say is a looming climatic catastrophe.

But even before the \$16 million event begins, the meagre sum of measures taken so far and wrangling over the cost of action and how to share the load between rich and poor countries mean the chance of progress is slim.

The 11-day Berlin event, technically the first conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, brings together the states which at the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio pledged to tackle the problem of global warming.

Industrial states vowed to cut their emissions of so-called "greenhouse gases" to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

The chief aim of the Berlin conference is to review progress toward this end and try to set goals into the next century and include commitments from developing countries.

"A successful conclusion will be no easy task in view of countries' different national interests and economic positions," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said.

"But we have no alternative, because environmental destruction and climate change know no borders. We can together ensure this planet continues to be worth living on, or individually help to make it uninhabitable."

"Controlling 10,000 kilometres of border will be

7 EU countries drop border controls

BRUSSELS (R) — Internal border controls between seven of the European Union's (EU) 15 member states disappeared Sunday in the most far-reaching move yet to create a bloc in which citizens can move unchecked.

The so-called Schengen Agreement, signed in 1985 by five countries and by a further two in 1992, embraces Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal. Other EU members may join later.

"Schengen can be understood as a precursor to complete freedom of movement in all of Europe," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Passengers flying between the seven countries can now leave from domestic rather than international airport terminals and will not be subject to identity checks.

A group of members of the European Parliament flew into Brussels airport from different countries in the Schengen accord to mark the event.

"Controlling 10,000

much easier than controlling 40,000 kilometres, including all the internal borders," Belgian Deputy Fernand Herremans told Reuters as the parliamentarians sipped champagne after sailing through arrivals without showing their passports.

Staff at the airport worked overnight to post special signs giving arriving and departing passengers directions to the right control points.

Not all airports have managed to build special terminals on time, and even in Brussels passengers from the Schengen zone have to make the trip from the plane to their special terminal by bus.

In the Netherlands, Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam will not be ready until the year end.

The Euro-MPs were due to make the journey to the town in Luxembourg after which the accord was named.

Although passengers arriving from Schengen countries will not have to show passports, they will still have to show proof in the shape of a boarding pass, that they are travelling from a Schengen territory.

Burma cuts prisoners' sentences to mark army day

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burma's military government said it has cut by one-third the sentences of more than 23,000 prisoners in honour of the 50th celebration of Armed Forces Day, official media reported Sunday.

The New Light Of Myanmar newspaper said the minister of home affairs, Lt. Gen. Mya Thinn, issued a decree reducing the sentences of inmates who have worked on projects that were completed in time for the celebration Monday.

"As a gesture marking the golden jubilee Armed Forces Day, one-third of their sentences... has been reduced," the order said, without adding whether this meant that any of the prisoners would walk free.

But state-run newspapers, television and radio made no mention of any leniency towards Aung San Suu Kyi, a co-founder of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) who has been under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989.

Southern member states say stricter transport measures would raise costs, make imports of live animals un-economic and result in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

former Prime Minister U Nu was lifted in April 1992.

Former Defence Minister Tin Oo, 68, was a co-founder with Ms. Suu Kyi of the NLD in 1988 and became its first chairman. He was arrested with her in July 1989 and imprisoned on a charge of stirring discord.

Mr. Kyi Maung, 76, a former colonel, led the NLD to an overwhelming election victory in 1990 but the SLORC, the ruling body of the Burmese Armed Forces, ignored the result and has retained power ever since.

Burma officially has no political prisoners, although dissidents, diplomats and human rights groups abroad say several thousand people are in jail for political offences.

On March 15, the government announced the release of 31 prisoners, including leading dissidents Tin Oo and Kyi Maung.

Diplomats described them as the two most prominent opposition figures to be set free since the house arrest of

former Prime Minister U Nu was lifted in April 1992.

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Their release could mean a revival of the dialogue started between the SLORC and Ms. Suu Kyi last September, which apparently had stalled since October, diplomats said.

Ms. Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burmese independence hero General Aung San, has said she wants her release to be unconditional and that she will make no secret deals with the generals to win her freedom.

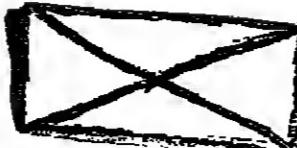
Meanwhile, troops of the Burmese military junta suffered nearly 100 casualties in a battle against oppn. warlord Khun Sa's Maung Tai Army (MTA), a Thai military-run television channel said Saturday.

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The station also said that Rangoon troops and the MTA had clashed against early Saturday in a battle lasting three hours at Ban Pang Pak Kud, about 20 kilometres from Thailand's Mae Sai district. No casualty figures from the incident were however available.

Former Vietnam imperial capital marks anniversary of Communist victory</h2

World News



Queen's visit concentrated on S. African blacks

JURBAN, South Africa (R) Britain's Queen Elizabeth turned home Sunday from state visit to South Africa which focused on the black majority in a country struggling to redress the imbalances of apartheid.

The tour "has been one of outstanding experiences of my life," she told wazulu-Natal premier Frank Mdlalose Saturday, a final day of her six-day stay.

In sharp contrast, to the huge crowds that greeted her last visit in 1947 with her parents King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and sister Princess Margaret, the queen 48 years later was very much on the black realities of post-apartheid South Africa. She visited community and education facilities in six impoverished black townships round Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg and Durban to see the other side of South Africa.

But her only views of the lapidated waterless and quiet shacks which are home to millions of blacks were a quick drive or walk past, to the disappointment



British Queen Elizabeth II, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and his wife and the Duke of Edinburgh (back), share a joke during a photo-call, after a ceremonial luncheon in Durban (AFP photo)

of some township dwellers.

In the sprawling Soweto township southwest of Johannesburg, she also unveiled the first memorial in South Africa to 607 black servicemen who died when their ship sank in the English Channel en route to France and World War I in

1917.

The only other memorial to the men had been at the southern English port of Southampton, near where their ship the Mendi sank in icy, fog-shrouded Channel waters.

Black war veterans also met the queen and Prince Philip during the ceremony in Soweto's Avalon Cemetery — again a contrast to the 1947 visit when black servicemen were kept well away from the royal visitors.

One of the highlights of the visit came in Port Elizabeth, which was included on the tour after hard lobbying by the government of Eastern Cape Province, one of the poorest in the nation.

Police said more than 100,000 people turned out to greet her in New Brighton township and other parts of the Indian Ocean city in a welcome royal officials said was one of the outstanding moments of her 43-year reign.

The queen also came as head of the Commonwealth, and she marked South Africa's return to the 51-nation community of former British imperial possessions with a gala banquet in Pretoria for

the heads of the Commonwealth, and she marked South Africa's return to the 51-nation community of former British imperial possessions with a gala banquet in Pretoria for



South African President Nelson Mandela smiles as Britain's Queen Elizabeth II waves goodbye to the people of Durban at the end of her six-day official visit, the first since 1947. During the day she was given a stuffed lioness and a prize bull (AFP photo)

Thousands more Hutus fleeing Burundi capital

BUJUMBURA (R) — Thousands of Hutus fled townships near Burundi's capital Bujumbura Sunday in a fresh exodus towards nearby Zaire's frontier, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

"Our teams reported people leaving Kamenge and Kinimana in large numbers, thousands. This is worrying," said ICRC chief delegate Marjolaine Martin in Bujumbura.

Tens of thousands of Hutus

fled the city Friday after Tutsi militiamen rampaged on a night of arson, shooting and grenade explosions that left up to several hundred dead. Many of them flooded down the road west of Bujumbura towards Zaire.

Serious clashes have not yet broken out in Kamenge but some fear the township could be the next Tutsi target.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Nairobi

says only 15,000 people have spilled into Zaire's frontier town of Uvira, but relief officials said many were avoiding roads and taking back routes.

The fighting between Burundi's two ethnic groups has provoked fears that the Central African country will go the same way as its northern neighbour Rwanda, where up to one million people, most of them Tutsis, were slaughtered last year.

The streets of Burundi's capital Bujumbura were de-

serted except for military patrols Sunday.

"This is a war zone. You cannot enter here," one Tutsi soldier told reporters trying to get into the blitzed suburb of Bujumbura. Tutsi gangs turned reporters away from Bwiza suburb.

A single corpse lay in the road in Bwiza where dozens were strewn about Saturday after heavy clashes

Friday in which witnesses said up to 500 were killed.

Bhutto lauds Hillary as role model for women

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton here Sunday as a "symbol" for women throughout the world.

At a luncheon for the U.S. president's wife, Ms. Bhutto praised Mrs. Clinton's role "for the cause of women, children and education," saying "I am utterly fascinated by Hillary Clinton's efforts to redefine the role of women in the United States."

"You are a symbol for all women in east and west," she aid comparing Hillary Clinton with Eleanor Roosevelt.

In her brief remarks the J.S. first lady described Ms. Bhutto's leadership as "beacon for all of us."

She said "women are breaking new ground, availing new opportunities" everywhere in the world.

Hillary Clinton flew to Islamabad late Saturday on the first leg of her two-week South Asian tour that will also take her to India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. She was received by Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari.

In her arrival statement she said "our nations have enjoyed a long friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am pleased to begin my visit to South Asia from here in Pakistan."

The purpose of her visit is to gain first-hand knowledge of development activities in the region, which comprises

more fifth of the world's population, officials said.

"Two weeks is far too brief, a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world," she said. But she hoped her visit will help Americans and South Asians gain "a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family."

"In Pakistan I look forward to seeing new places and making new friends, and also to learning more about the rich, dynamic history and traditions that you have left the world," she said.

The visit is the first in more than three decades by a U.S. first lady since Jacqueline Kennedy came to Pakistan in March 1962, officials here

said.

Mrs. Clinton, who is accompanied by daughter Chelsea and a 15-member delegation, later went to see Saudi funded Faisal Mosque.

On Monday she will leave for the historic city of Lahore known as the country's cultural capital.

Meanwhile Pakistani police said Sunday they have arrested two more men with alleged links to Ramzi Yousef, the man charged with the 1993 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre.

Prime Minister Bhutto has ordered a crackdown against suspected terrorists, and police have arrested more than 10 men in the past month.

Yeltsin heads towards polls with 2-week train trip

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin embarks Monday on a two-week train journey through Russia that cuts all the hallmarks of a hasty-stop tour aimed at winning support for the coming year of elections.

Mr. Yeltsin will officially leave on a "working vacation" Monday when he boards the train to Ryazan, his first stop on the trip across Russia to the resort town of Sochi on the Black Sea.

"It's a normal vacation, or an electoral campaign trip," the president's new spokesman Sergei Medvedev, told reporters.

But few doubt that the real purpose of Mr. Yeltsin's train journey is to seek support ahead of parliamentary elections set for December and a presidential poll due to be held in June 1996.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose rating in opinion polls has plunged to a record low of seven per cent since the war in Chechnya began, is using the trip to project an image of prosperity to Russians who

will follow his journey on the television news.

Newspapers say shabby towns along Mr. Yeltsin's route are being hastily spruced up in the grand Russian tradition of the "Potemkin villages" prettified for Catherine the Great when she traveled down the Volga in the 18th century.

"Yeltsin will be shown a Little Switzerland" along the route to Ryazan, the popular newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolsk* said.

It said buildings, posts and fences had been repainted, garbage heaps incinerated and anti-Yeltsin graffiti washed away along the 200-kilometre (120-mile) stretch of rail to Ryazan.

Mr. Yeltsin has not yet said whether he intends to run for the presidency next year, but his loss of popularity has upset his supporters among "democrats" who fear they may not even get a candidate into the second round of voting in June.

The president, whose military intervention in

Chechnya in December has proved highly unpopular, has suffered a series of other setbacks lately.

The launch of a new television network to be run by eight financial and industrial groups allied with Mr. Yeltsin has been on the rocks since the March 1 murder of the man who was to head it, the television star Vladislav Listyev.

The State Duma, the lower house of parliament, meanwhile, has just passed a law opposed by Mr. Yeltsin that retains proportional voting for half the 450 Duma seats to be filled in December — a step that will give a significant boost to the ultra-nationalists of Vladimir Zhirinov.

Presidential aides are reportedly considering postponing the elections by two years, but such a move would have the effect of an atomic bomb.

"It is therefore nearly inevitable that this question will come up in Yeltsin's speeches throughout his train trip," he added.

The president, whose military intervention in

Chechenya frontline village braces for war as talks fail

TSOTSIN YURT, Russia (AFP) — Talks between Russian and Chechen commanders at the frontline village of Tsotsin Yurt proved fruitless Sunday and a new battle seemed inevitable.

"We agreed to meet again and out to shoot at each other now, but they'll attack anyway. They're soldiers, they've been ordered to," said Hushiyev, a 32-year-old fighter at the talks, said.

"They could attack at any time, right now. We know that," he said.

The refugee-swollen village lies between the two main Chechen strongholds of Shali and Gudermes, but hopes that it might escape the war were dashed after the fourth fruitless round of talks.

The Chechen fighters in the town say there is no way they can surrender their weapons, as the Russians are asking.

Russian tanks are dug in just 200 metres across a field from the Chechen frontlines. More reinforcements were brought up overnight, Mr. Hushiyev said.

"They warned us they have all the latest weapons, electronics and special rockets. They would already be shooting now if there hadn't been these talks. We're both buying time," said Ali Musayev, 35, the local deputy commander.

Mr. Musayev estimated there were between 25,000 and 40,000 people in the tiny village, many of them having fled before the Russian advance.

"Of course the Russians know all these people are here. They say we have to follow orders, a soldier follows orders," he said.

"They absolutely don't want to fight. They want to go home," Mr. Hushiyev said. "No one wants to fight."

The village's hospital has already evacuated and a major hospital in nearby Kurchalo has begun to pull out

to facilities in the Caucasus Mountains.

"We must prepare for the worst and keep getting ready for an evacuation," said Francois Calas, from the international humanitarian group Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

The first group of wounded have already been moved to the mountains, he said.

As the fighting moves south and the Chechens retreat, town by town, the medical situation has become acute. Hospitals have been hit, destroyed or forced to evacuate by Russian shelling and bombing.

The crowded and dirty conditions that thousands of civilians are living in has added the threat of epidemics, such as cholera and diphtheria, to the growing body count of the war.

MSF, which works around the clock to provide the sparsely equipped hospitals with expertise and medicines, has also been hampered by the Russian authorities, Mr. Calas said.

Russian army posts have been ordered not to allow more than small amounts of medical aid into the Chechen-separatist-controlled part of the country.

"We have a lot of stocks in Nazra (just outside Chechenya). Probably 90 per cent of stocks are there. We can take it to Grozny, but not to the south," Mr. Calas said.

Russian checkpoints were ordered by headquarters not to allow MSF lorries through, only their jeep-sized cars, Mr. Calas said.

He said Chechen authorities were not ready to handle any epidemics and that there would be difficult long-term physical and mental rehabilitation for people who live through the war.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev declared his republic independent from the Russian Federation in 1991, after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Russian forces poured into the tiny

machineguns.

The shelling appeared to be across several residential neighbourhoods, with projectiles whistling overhead and debris flying across back streets. Can drove at high speed and those on foot had to move quickly to find cover.

The barrage ended a brief lull after a night of heavy artillery and multiple rocket duels between Chechen fighters dug in around Shali and Russian troops positioned in a close semi-circle to the west and east.

Despite Russian gains last week, ostensibly taking the town of Arguo after shelling it for three months, Mr. Maskhadov said his army was far from a spent force.

"We could have stayed in Arguo for another month, fighting neighbourhood by neighbourhood like in Grozny, but it had no significance to us anymore," he said.

"The Russians want to take Shali and Gudermes and push us into the mountains. Then they will say they've won the war and we are just bandits in the hills," he said.

"I just wanted to show that I am ready to fight a real war, army against army, position against positions. ... If we go to the mountains, then it will be a nightmare for the Russians," he said. "The mountains will be our kind of war."

Mr. Maskhadov said he had met with President Dzhokhar Dudayev Saturday and that the separatist leader was well and "not far from" Shali.

A few civilians remain in Shali, mostly those with nowhere to go.

Dadal Magomedovich, a 57-year-old man with a bright red face, gold teeth and a fur hat, emerged from his house on back street and said: "I'm guarding my house. I served for four years in the Soviet army and never expected my former comrades to do this."

He said nothing could make him leave Shali.

Fighting threatens to bury Bosnia truce

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A week of heavy fighting has left Bosnian government forces in control of several strategic heights, but threatens to bury the four-month ceasefire due to expire in five weeks.

Meanwhile, Serb forces are retaking by shellings towns, including U.N.-declared safe areas.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officials here said government forces, who went on the offensive last Monday, have seized two vital telecommunications relay towers, a serious blow to the Serbs' command-and-control military capacity.

Muslim-led troops seized a television tower in central Bosnia, capturing the 1,933-metre-high Pajalic peak in the Vlasic range, UNPROFOR officials said.

Government forces are also believed to have taken Stolice, another peak used for television and military transmissions, just east of Tuzla, in the northeast of the country.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic appeared to confirm government gains by calling Saturday for immediate peace talks and a return by Bosnian forces to the lines they held before an initial ceasefire accord was agreed on Dec. 24.

"In their most recent offensives, the Muslim side has engaged in a major war which will not be ended by the ceasefires the international community calls for each time the Muslims are threatened with defeat," Mr. Karadzic warned.

"Reports from well-placed sources inside the ANC indicate that Winnie Mandela may already have been fired from the government of national unity," the paper reported.

Asked about the report, President Mandela said it was

Experts warn of new Chernobyl peril

LONDON (R) — Western scientists have warned that a second catastrophic explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine could happen at any time, the Observer newspaper said Sunday.

The British weekly said it obtained a report suppressed by European Commission officials, which contained the warning about Chernobyl, site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986.

"In a secret report... they say pillars supporting the damaged reactor building are in imminent danger of bursting," the Observer said.

Their collapse could seen debris crashing through the concrete sarcoph

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JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1995

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Traffic — once again

LONGER GROWS the list of traffic accidents, and unacceptably higher becomes the number of the victims of reckless drivers who seem unwilling to learn from the tragedies that continue to plague society as a result of their seemingly adamant refusal to drive safely.

A 10-year old child lost his eye Sunday when a truck driver lost control of his vehicle which he was driving above speed limit — not on highway, but inside one of the most congested areas of the capital. The accident happened on the same day that a traffic seminar ended with "recommendations" to improve safety on the roads and at a time when the government is drafting a new traffic law. The accident also came days after similar irresponsible driving led to the death of many citizens.

That we have a major traffic problem is a stark reality. But that we have thus far failed to do anything about it is even a stronger one that resonates with shame to all of us: citizens and government.

The country cannot afford to wait until the new law is introduced before the carnage on the roads is redressed. The problem is not with legislation. It is with people who do not follow them and with police that do not enforce them. The responsibility for keeping the shadow of death hanging over our streets is equally shared by the people and the government. Something needs to be done now, and urgently so.

And it would not take a genius to figure out what should be done. Traffic police who man the busy circles of Amman should not just watch complacently as motorists dart through the circles in complete disregard to the rights of way; they should not fail to take action against motorists who drive in the middle of the road as if lanes do not exist; they should not just sit idle as drivers violate every traffic rule there is. Ticketing motorists who park illegally is by no means the only task for which the state hires the traffic police. Nor is the role of traffic patrols to stop drivers who are driving perfectly legally for no other reason but to carry out a routine check of their drivers' licences.

It is time the traffic police adopted efficient techniques for making the roads safe to drive on. Every motorist who violates a traffic rule should be held accountable, stopped, ticketed and given a good reason not to repeat his/her violation. That would mean enforcement of the law. That would instill in people the fear of breaking the law and that would eventually teach them to respect the rules of the road. In the absence of a natural respect for the law, fear of punishment is a sufficient method to bring about that respect. This, in a sense, would be one of the tools for giving people the traffic education that they badly need.

That is the short term solution. The long term one would entail traffic education at schools, universities and driving schools. It would entail making that education part of our culture.

What we need is not a new traffic legislation. What we need is law enforcement. There is no reason why this should not start now, why it did not start last year, the year before or the one before it.

That 10-year-old child did not have to lose his eye. Unfortunately, he did. The challenge, indeed the duty, is to make sure there are no similar victims today or tomorrow. The government is responsible for ensuring the safety of its citizens. The traffic police must fulfil its role in that responsibility. Citizens who pose a threat to the safety of others must be stopped. Jordanians must not continue to suffer from the irresponsible behaviour of drivers who are on the road to kill.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday said in its editorial that awarding His Majesty King Hussein a peace prize from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and the Ronald Reagan Freedom award in Los Angeles on Friday was an expression of appreciation of His Majesty's central role in peace making in the Middle East and of his role in enhancing Jordanian-American relations. The paper said honouring King Hussein at this level is also honouring Jordan's role in its pursuit of comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and of sound relationships between the world countries. It said his Majesty affirmed in his address at the Simon Wiesenthal Centre that tolerance and understanding in this small world are two things that should be made possible and that previous tragedies should be avoided. The paper said that world countries should be partners in building better future that they all deserve. King Hussein also clearly stressed that the Jordanian people are supporting peace and are working for a peace that would be accepted by future generations, the paper concluded.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Sunday that drivers are responsible for the rise in road accidents. Taher Al Adwan said there were no malfunctions in the Kingdom's roads, but the real problem is in the way some people drive their cars. He said there was no need for a new traffic law which will culminate in complicating bureaucratic procedures. The current traffic law, which was amended recently, is suitable but the problem lies in other reasons, said the writer. He said citizens agree that the rise in the number of car accidents is caused by a certain category of drivers who can be described as reckless. He said such drivers, who turned the roads into racing arenas, should not be allowed to drive.



In China after Deng, it appears the successor may be bureaucracy

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — The fissures opening in China's body politic as the post-Deng era approaches were apparent during the just ended meeting of the National People's Congress. But it would be wrong to assume that power struggles preface mayhem, or any dramatic policy shifts.

Indeed, it is likely that a degree of open dissent makes it less likely that one small clique will attempt to preempt another after Mr. Deng leaves the scene, as happened with the Gang of Four and their opponents after Mao's death.

In the weeks before the People's Congress, President Jiang Zemin took every opportunity to portray himself as the nation's new leader. He made a dramatic eight-point statement on relations with Taiwan. And with the arrest of Zhou Beifang, boss of the once exemplary Shougang Corporation, he sent a clear warning to Deng family interests (a Deng son heads a Shougang subsidiary quoted in Hong Kong).

But at the People's Congress, Mr. Jiang's rivals and critics had an opportunity to vent their frustrations. The confirmation of the Shandong party secretary,

Jiang Chunyun, as a deputy prime minister, drew "no" votes or abstentions from a spectacularly large 36 per cent of deputies. There were rumblings of discontent over a range of issues, from banking legislation to policy on Hong Kong.

But are these signs of an organised opposition to Mr. Jiang, or simply scattershot resentments of particular policies and individuals? Is there a wider attempt within the People's Congress to make itself more than a rubber stamp and gain some supervisory power over government?

The focus of the muscle-flexing in the People's Congress was its chairman, Qiao Shi, who emphasised the need for rule by law rather than by personalities, and who reminded his fellow deputies that senior officials were servants, not masters, of the people.

Mr. Qiao, with a background in state security, has extensive inside knowledge of the apparatus of power, and useful intelligence on other leading figures. His fêting during the pro-democracy demonstrations of 1989 and his emphasis on legal procedures have given him a slightly more liberal image than he may deserve.

The People's Congress gave provincial leaders a chance to grumble at the government. But those leaders are unlikely to have a common agenda. There are vast differences in interest between buoyant Guangdong Province, which wants as little interference from Beijing as possible, and Szechuan and other central and western provinces that have been little touched by economic boom.

As it meets only once a year, the People's Congress poses no direct threat to Mr. Jiang. But it illustrates the increasing difficulties the centre will have in imposing its will. It also points to a revival of the desire for more open debate, such as existed under Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang.

The instincts of those in power will be to squelch debate if they can and to strengthen bureaucratic power. They will emphasise the party's duty to help the poor, and stress the fact that the party's original legitimacy came partly from its fight against exploitation and corruption.

Both Mr. Jiang's treatment of Shougang Corporation and some of the speeches made at the People's Congress expressed the felt need to combat corruption and the use of political power to accumulate personal wealth.

Mr. Jiang was not merely taking a swipe at the Deng family for its Shougang connections. He was also sending a warning to other "princelings," to foreign investors who thought they could buy special relationships in China, and to Chinese entrepreneurs who thought that *guanxi*, or personal relationships, could over-ride the rules of the bureaucracy.

Given the extent of corruption, the central government will have trouble achieving much.

But the rhetoric appeals to popular sentiment and is a pretext for the bureaucracy to rein in economic reform that have been exploited to purloin public assets. Those reforms, in any case, were threatened by inflation, the difficulty of refurbishing state enterprises, and the problems of mass migration from impoverished countryside to the cities.

Personal rivalries aside, one can see a certain commonality in the positions of President Jiang, Prime Minister Li Peng, Qiao Shi of the People's Congress and others. Whether by emphasising the rule of law or central authority, all seek to preserve the status quo minus Mr. Deng.

Essentially, that means re-placing rule by personality with rule by a nonideological bureaucracy.

The emphasis will remain on economic growth, but in the context of political stability and more even distribution of wealth — to gain support from poorer inland provinces. An adventurist approach to Taiwan will not be on the agenda. The battle will be over who will be the top dog and the degree to which decision-making is to be collective.

This is the probability. More dramatic developments cannot be ruled out. There could be preemptive bids for power by factions in the army, or a sharp swing towards nationalism as part of a power struggle.

But the complexity of the crosscurrents makes a repeat of the post-Mao scenario unlikely. Some heads will roll and some purges will occur, as they always do when the guard changes.

But the future looks more like Moscow after the passing of Nikita Khrushchev — a dreary but unalarming thought.

International Herald Tribune

Subway attack was blow to a nation's vulnerable psyche

By Laura King

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The nerve-gas attack on Tokyo's subway system struck not only at unsuspecting commuters, but at Japan's very sense of self. It poisoned minds as well as bodies.

Images of the attack and its aftermath have engraved themselves deeply into the national consciousness: Subway passengers bleeding from the mouth and nose, platoons of police in gas masks and military-style fatigues storming a secretive religious sect's compound; passersby in Ginza gathering around a huge television screen, listening silently to the bizarre pronouncements of a cult leader.

For some victims, the poison's effects were swift and cruel. For others, they will linger long. For the public psyche, probably both will turn out to be true.

All week long, in private conversation and public commentary, the underlying theme has been one of bewilderment. This is the kind of thing that happens in other countries, people say. Not here. Not to us.

Nearly everyone who lives or works in central Tokyo knows of someone who was caught in the rush-hour attack, or had a brush with it. In offices and shops all week, people exchanged small-scale news of large-scale disaster.

People ask: Our building maintenance man, is he still in the hospital? Have you

heard about the fishmonger's son, who was caught coming home from the seafood auction? Or they say: How lucky you were a little late to work that day.

By week's end, the attack's toll stood at 10 dead and nearly 5,000 sickened, with more than 700 still hospitalised. Many of those afflicted have been told they may suffer long-term internal damage or months of poor eyesight.

And still dawning is the sense of how much worse it could all have been: The apocalyptic Aum Shinri Kyo Sect, on whom suspicion has fallen in the attack, was reported Sunday to have possessed nerve gas to have killed 4 million people.

This has already been a badly bruising year for Japan. Only 17 days into 1995, an earthquake devastated the port city of Kobe, killing nearly 5,500 people.

Economic woes have been weighing heavy. The Japanese currency has appreciated 10 per cent since the start of the year, hammering export earnings of blue-chip companies and further dampening prospects for recovery from the worst recession since World War II.

And there's a sense of political malaise: Reform hopes have quietly faded, and a weak, cobbled-together coalition that few consider more than a caretaker government has now been in power for nine months.

Japan is coping with a

disturbing past as well as present. The 50th anniversary of the war's end — with its associations with bloody Pacific battles, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the start of a humiliating foreign occupation — is stirring strong emotions and firing debate about Japan's wartime responsibility.

So it is chilling to many that the subway attack was carried out with a substance dating from that era, the Nazi-developed nerve gas Sarin.

Like the synchronised nature of the subway attack — police said poisonous parcels were planted on five trains at around the same time — it was a simultaneous strike at symbols close to Japan's heart.

For many, the attack shattered the sense of safety that is a point of national pride. Tokyo may be a fast-paced world capital, but it is basically a collection of villages. Its neighbourhoods tend to have a small-town sense of security, with a tiny police outpost every few blocks, and officers often making their rounds on creaky black bicycles.

The growth of handgun crime in recent months has been a shock to the Japanese. Urban terrorism was nearly beyond the realm of imagination.

The attack was a blow to another Japanese institution: Its bureaucracy. All the affected trains were to have passed within moments of one another at Kasumigaseki, the capital's administrative centre.

The station is only steps away from agencies including the elite Foreign and Finance ministries, whose top officials are nearly all from graduates of Tokyo University.

While the bureaucrats are often seen as invincible, especially by foreigners trying to pry open Japanese markets, the attack literally brought them to their knees, sending grey-suited government men retching and gasping for air along with everyone else.

Then there's Japan's pride in the clean and efficient subways, which were packed Monday morning, as on any workday, with what may be the world's most well-groomed, best-behaved commuters. The sight of these passengers staggering en masse into the street was nearly inconceivable for most Japanese.

So ingrained is the sense of decorum that outside one hard-hit station, a neatly dressed young woman, apparently embarrassed, waved off a rescuer, shaking her head and trying to bow even as she gagged into a handkerchief.

Tokyo itself has suffered its share of calamities this century. It was leveled by an earthquake in 1923 and wrecked by allied firebombing in 1945. The city rebuilt itself from the ruins after both those disasters, and once again, its citizens are showing they are made of stern stuff.

On Monday morning, soon after the attack, a walk along the length of a

major boulevard dotted with subway stops on the affected subway line showed no signs of panic.

Under brilliant spring sunshine, pedestrians calmly obeyed police orders to detour. Several people politely stopped a passing foreigner to be sure she could read the danger notices at station entrances.

When it comes to seeing warning signs, though, the government may have some hard questions to answer in coming weeks and months about what it knew — and when — about the threat of just such an attack.

The links of the Aum Shinri Kyo sect to poison-gas production have long been the focus of widespread suspicion. Neighbours of its buildings and compounds have constantly complained of noxious emission.

The day before the subway attack, police requested thousands of gas masks and protective gear from the military and underwent special, secret training in how to use them. Japanese media reported the moves were directly linked to fears the sect had nerve gas and might use it to repel police raids planned with separate investigations.

Editorials on Sunday demanded swift steps to prove whether the group — which continues to proclaim its innocence — was behind the attack. A commentary in the Asahi daily asked: "What do chemicals have to do with religious beliefs?"

Reversing tide of trouble in Europe

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

PARIS — European nations have pledged once again to make a fresh start and reverse the tide of troubles on a continent torn by ethnic and nationalist tensions.

The European Stability Pact (ESP), approved by foreign ministers at a Paris conference which ended on Tuesday, committed some 50 nations to respect borders, ethnic minorities and human rights.

It was a familiar litany of lofty ideals, repeated at every international gathering called to deal with European security since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 — with little apparent impact on the wars raging in former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe hailed the pact as a unique exercise in "preventive diplomacy" with a clear message that would help Europe avoid more Bosnia's and Chechenias.

The stability pact does provide some substance, with a web of bilateral and multilateral agreements among countries from the Baltic states to Central Europe.

By settling old problems of borders and minorities, long suppressed during the cold war, these agreements should make it easier for some countries to join the 15-nation European Union (EU), which sponsored the pact, and NATO.

Hungary, for example, managed to complete a deal with Slovakia on minority rights just before the conference and came close to a similar agreement with Romania.

The process of the stability pact has represented without a doubt one of the catalysts in bilateral negotiations," Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu told the conference.

But the pact has only limited scope, confining itself to potential problems in states which have been told they can join the EU — six Central and Eastern European countries and the three Baltic republics.

Many countries, including France, suggested that similar agreements could be concluded for the Mediterranean, the Caucasus and the Balkans at some point in the future.

But most states in those areas have little or no chance of joining the EU and NATO, taking away a major incentive for them to settle their problems.

Georgia and Ukraine both complained that their problems risked being ignored, while Bosnia and Croatia lamented that more was not done to translate paper principles into reality.

In addition, the spectre of an insecure and unstable Russia hovered over the conference. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev used his speech on Monday to attack NATO's plans to take in former communist states.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe made clear on Tuesday that establishing Russia's place in Europe, an issue not covered by the pact, was perhaps the most important question of all.

"Stability and security on the European continent depend on the quality of relations with Russia," he told a news conference after meeting Kozyrev.

Even making sure that existing agreements in the stability pact are honoured could prove difficult, since they touch on sensitive issues of how far

Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1995 7

Jesse Jackson: Israeli government must talk to Hamas

In the following interview with Daphne Barak, Reverend Jesse Jackson indicates Middle East peace will not be achieved unless a Palestinian state is created.

By Daphne Barak

Q: The agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and between Israel and Jordan — are you satisfied with what's happening in the Middle East?

A: I'm elated over the work we've done in the Middle East regarding the peace. American policy was against the Arabs for too many years. This wasn't a policy against peace, but any action to advance peace requires, first of all, fulfilling an obligation to the Palestinian people. When I visited Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria in 1979, I put pressure on Yasser Arafat to start negotiating. I preached that the right of the Palestinian people to exist must be recognised. There are still many problems, but the dialogue between the Israelis and the PLO has prepared the way for peace in the Middle East.

Q: Are you satisfied with what's been happening in the West Bank since the peace agreement?

A: Well, this protracted process over so many years has created so much bitterness and anguish among the people whose relatives are in prison, or who are without means of livelihood, without a future. These people (the Palestinians) — must be given hope. They need leadership.

Q: Yasser Arafat is the leader they need over there?

A: Well, for the time being, he's the leader who

has the most recognition among the Palestinians. He's led his followers from exile back to their land. I think that (Shimon) Peres and... what's his name?... Rabin (Yitzhak Rabin), they deserve a lot of credit, for having had the courage to lead their people to this step. A lot of credit...

Q: Do you see a Palestinian state in the future?

A: Well, what do you see? The Palestinians won't rest until they get a state of their own, with their own flag.

Q: How do you explain the fact that at the very time that a process in a positive direction has begun, that's when the extremists start cropping up? And I really mean extremists, both on the Hamas side and also on the side of the Jewish settlers?

A: Extremism — that's a phenomenon that's rampant all over the world today. It's created by poverty, frustration, lack of hope. These are people who believe in "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." You have to create love in these people. Love engenders: "Live and let live" while hate engenders "kill and be killed..."

Q: Saddam Hussein!

A: Yes...

Q: It's hard for me to forget your meeting — yours and President Saddam during the middle of the Gulf war.

A: I really don't know what his situation is today... I met him in the middle of the Gulf war. I succeeded in saving Americans, and other foreign citizens in

Kuwait. I actually got them out at the last moment. I'm sorry he invaded Kuwait. I'm sorry he didn't listen to me and didn't get out in time. It was such an uncalculated act.

Q: How did he impress you?

A: Listen, I didn't spend enough time with him... I can't analyse his character. We talked, I tried to convince him.

Q: Are you still in touch today?

A: No.

Q: What's the next step in the Middle East, in your opinion?

A: First of all — there has to be something that will appeal to the PLO and Hamas, so that the Palestinians don't destroy themselves and everything around them. The situation can't be remedied by war, only by coming to terms.

Q: That means you're in favour of talks with Hamas?

A: Wait a minute... you have to give them something that will appease them...

Q: Should there be talks with Hamas or not?

A: Of course. They have to talk with them. How can you solve problems without talking to people?

Q: So soon after their operations, I assume a declaration like that from you will have repercussions.

A: Yes...

Q: The peace agreement: Israel-PLO, and Israel-Jordan — can they be considered the achievements of President Clinton?

A: They're the direct result of a new approach in the Middle East. Let's talk.

In fact, the achievement belongs to (Yitzhak) Rabin, (Shimon) Peres and Yasser Arafat. These are men who couldn't have advanced matters as they did, if they hadn't had the courage to talk to each other. They deserve the credit! Once the dialogue was established — then the Clinton administration entered the picture...

Q: This peace is costing the Americans a lot of money!

A: That's a tough question... Look, it's worthwhile to cancel the debts of countries. After all, what's the value of the debt, if it's shrouded in blood? In the past — we sold weapons, we made money from wars. This didn't help the peace. Missiles and artillery assistance don't advance peace. Talks and negotiations — do advance it.

Q: So in other words: You disagree with Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich (speakers of the Senate) who are calling for cuts in American foreign aid?

A: Bob Dole (Senate majority leader) is probably sticking his head in the sand. In the long run, if you stop wars — you're making a cut in the aid the region will need in the future. It's a mistake to isolate ourselves from the world and shut our eyes. It's a short range type of vision.

Q: Bill Clinton!

A: Yes...

Q: How do you account for the drop in his popularity?

A: He's under such a massive attack: oo him, on his family, oo his behaviour. No American president has ever undergone such violent personal attacks. In fact, his achievements in foreign policy — the peace in the Middle East, Haiti, South Africa — they're significant. His first step, oo the other hand, was strange. That whole business about homosexuals in the army was perhaps very human, but it wasn't so important as to rate first priority. He invested so much energy and media in that — I don't understand it.

He also promised equality and social justice: Where is that? The situation is only getting worse, that's why many people who had hopes — were disappointed! In addition, each time Dole and Gingrich attack him personally — he folds up, he doesn't react. For instance, Gingrich's (chairman of the House) mother said her son thinks that Hilary Clinton is a bitch, (a comment that caused a lot of noise in the U.S.) — and Clinton never responded. He didn't be-



Lack of funding threatens Iraq relief

(Continued from page 12)

contributions of up to \$146 million.

This year's plea for \$188 million is aimed at financing programmes for immunisation campaigns, water and sewerage treatment, rehabilitation and food distribution. The figure incorporates money sought by NGOs operating in Iraq.

The international sanctions against Iraq have resulted in a "critical lack of medicines as well as food shortages," said Mr. Doolan. "Water and sewerage treatment facilities have broken down. Children are forced to carry water to school and signs of malnutrition are abundant. Disease rates are alarmingly high."

Mr. Doolan added: "The sanctions are targeted at the government but it is the ordinary people who are suffering."

Furthermore, Mr. Doolan is concerned that donor resistance to an increased number of programmes in central and southern Iraq is high.

According to Mr. Doolan, political considerations appear to have prevented some donors from participating in or considering humanitarian programmes in central and southern Iraq and donors are anxious about the ability to monitor programmes through the beneficiary level.

"We are trying to reassure donors that their money will reach the people, but they don't believe us. We cannot enter into the political arguments at all, but we are bringing out the humanitarian ones."

The economic sanctions, which are reviewed every two months, will not be lifted until Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions drawn up following the Gulf crisis, satisfies U.N. Security Council members.

Allegations suggesting Iraq has clandestinely rebuilt its weaponry capability, that its economic resources are channelled into the construction of "palaces" for government use and the regime's refusal to accept a Security Council proposal for a limited oil sale with the promise that expenditure of resultant revenue be monitored, has hardened donors to the urgent needs of the Iraqi people.

In the meantime at the end of this month, Care will withdraw from north-

Iraq and concentrate its efforts in the central and southern parts of the country, where Mr. Doolan describes the situation now as "desperate."

Other NGOs operate in the north, but they are neither permanent, like Care or Britain's Oxfam, nor do they have official agreements with the Iraqi government.

As part of the U.N. inter-agency appeal, Care International has appealed for \$527,824 for emergency food relief for primary school children. The programme aims to provide between 16.6 per cent and 19 per cent of the daily energy requirements to 250,000 school children from six to 12 years. The programme will last for 117 days.

"Every day each child will receive a packet of high energy biscuits and a glass of milk with some sugar. It will be consumed at school so it won't be shared out at home," Mr. Doolan said.

Care is seeking \$315,288 to establish post-natal care units in nine community health centres in Hilla governorate, central Iraq.

In central Iraq, mortality rates for infants and children under five have increased from 12 per 1,000 to 148 per 1,000 in the last five years, according to WHO statistics.

One other project is

care's educational support programme, for which the agency is asking \$510,501 from donors.

The programme's objective is to repair 50 primary schools in Hilla and the restoration of water and sanitation facilities there.

The lack of safe and adequate water supplies and poor sanitation has resulted in the transmission of water-borne diseases, such as typhoid and malaria, among children.

The education support programme also aims to increase availability of educational materials for pupils and teachers.

In its Iraq programmes, Care employs 16 international staff and approximately 750 national staff.

The meeting in Geneva secured pledges from Japan of \$4.75 million and 6.9 million gilders (approximately \$5.5 million) from the Netherlands, Mr. Doolan said. The European Union's (EU) humanitarian organisation, Norway, Sweden and Denmark have made unspecified pledges of assistance.

"We still have a long way to go," said Mr. Doolan, who spends two weeks in eight in Iraq. "Things look grim and unless members of the U.N. come forward with firmer commitment for the U.N. humanitarian programme, I can only predict things will get worse and worse."

Israel: Poll date can be met

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian goods from the Gaza Strip to Israel, the West Bank, Jordan and Egypt and the entry of Israeli goods into Gaza.

"Israeli measures are unacceptable and therefore Palestinians will reject Arab normalisation of trade and economic relations with Israel," Mr. Salam said.

The Palestinian Authority, which took control of Gaza and Jericho last July, says Israel owes it more than \$550 million annually in tax revenues from Palestinian workers whereas Israel says it owes only up to \$170 million.

"Israel is paying us \$10 million per month, which is only 25 per cent of the whole amount owed," Mr. Salam said.

"We demand that Israel pay an interest of 10 to 12 per cent on frozen funds it owes us. We estimate this amount at around \$150 million in the past 10 months for Gaza and the West Bank."

King addresses Los Angeles forum

(Continued from page 1)

sion," said the King.

He ended by praising the United States for standing by Jordan during the process of peacemaking and urging it to continue its support in the era of peacebuilding. The King expressed his hope that "the next 100 years of the region's long history will earn the title of the 'century of peace.'

The Los Angeles World Affairs Council is one of the United States' leading forums for prominent foreign and national policymakers and

Kurds defiant

(Continued from page 1)

"It's nice here. The Turkish government frightened us so we came," said a mother of nine children who gave her name only as Zelfitan, 53.

A U.N. officer said another evacuation from Zakho to Atrosh may take place within a few days.

Refugee Leyla Ercan said she fled into the predominantly Kurdish north of Iraq after harassment by Turkish troops. She told Reuters she now feared the same again.

"The U.N. is going to guard us. That's why we're going to the camp," she said.

"I think we'll have better life there."

Others said their villages were burnt by troops after they refused to join the state-backed village guard militias, deployed in Turkey against the PKK, which has fought a 10-year insurgency in south-east Turkey.

In Ranya, Iraq, villagers said Turkish warplanes killed a six-year-old Kurdish girl and wounded six civilians when they bombed a mountain village.

Residents of Pilingan, 30 kilometres south of the Turkey-Iraq border, said a dozen Turkish warplanes had bombed the village at least 20 times since they began their offensive last Monday.

"Northern Iraq has been left to the PKK so much so that they have even planted fields of opium poppy there," the Hurriyet daily quoted him on Sunday as saying.

He pointed out craters two metres wide.

Another Pilingan resident, Ahmad Sherif, said: "They bombed us because the PKK have a camp not far from here."

Washington is to monitor the northern Iraq offensive for possible human rights abuses by Turkey, which is often accused of mistreating its Kurdish population.

Turkish Foreign Minister Murat Karayalcin said Turkey could not let the PKK control northern Iraq, whatever international pressures Ankara may face.

"Northern Iraq has been left to the PKK so much so that they have even planted fields of opium poppy there," the Hurriyet daily quoted him on Sunday as saying.

"There is no refusal of dialogue, but the dialogue must be in Algeria and between Algerians," Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad

Rabin, Netanyahu in war of words

(Continued from page 1)

60 per cent support in the year-earlier survey.

Jaffee centre director Zeev Maoz said the results reflected a reversal of a gradual softening of Israeli views in previous years. He attributed the shift to disappointment over the peace process.

Attending the Los Angeles World Affairs Council's luncheon on Their Majesties were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Beq Shaker, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali, Hamza and Hashem and Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Tarawneh and his wife.

There is a revolution in the trends... the main reason is the terrorism over the past year," he told the Associated Press.

The annual survey showed that over the past year support increased sharply for tough policies such as travel bans and curfews against Palestinians as well as imposing the death penalty on militants.

According to Haaretz, the Labour Party wants to demonstrate to the public that Likud has no alternatives to the government's peace-making policies.

General elections are to take place in Israel in November 1996 at the latest.

Mr. Rabin has announced

he will stand again for the post of prime minister, who is to be directly elected for the first time.

Asked whether his comments constituted "electrification," Mr. Rabin told Yediot Aharonot that his words "will obviously have repercussions on the vote."

"They are part of a political battle to win public support and allow the peace process to continue," Mr. Rabin added.

Likud is fighting the expansion of autonomy, arguing it will bring Palestinian statehood and relinquishing warland.

Mr. Rabin also accused previous Likud-led governments of creating "perpetual friction" by planting Jewish settlements in or near Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

He mentioned Hebron, a city that is home to about 450 Israelis who live among 180,000 Palestinians, and said that it "requires more soldiers than settlers to give them (the settlers) security."

Rabbani in new offensive

(Continued from page 12)

tains, but it could not be independently confirmed.

Incoming rockets from Taliban positions, several kilometres away, occasionally blasted holes in the road outside Kandahar Khan.

Last week Mr. Rabbani's troops drove the Talibans out of their stronghold at Charasayab, south of the city, and out of rocket range of Kabul.

For the first time in three years a single group, Mr. Rahmani's Jamiat-e-Islami party, controls the entire city and the surrounding area. As a result the city has been quiet. The relentless rocketing of the past year has stopped, although many people fear the peace will be short lived.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1995

America wins, the poor lose — U.N. study

LONDON (R) — The U.S.-backed Uruguay Round bid to extend free trade principles to world agriculture promises more affluence in America but may further impoverish poor nations in Africa, says a United Nations study.

"It will not improve the lot" of the poor, food deficit nations.

They face higher food imports bills just as they are robbed of the some of the value of preferential access to consumer markets, says the study by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The FAO says western Europe is another loser from the 1994 Uruguay Round of tariff and subsidy cuts agreed under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"There are always winners and losers in these economic projections," said James Greenfield, FAO head of commodity policy and projections.

"In this study North America, Australia and New Zealand make trade gains, while Europe loses. Africa, broadly speaking, will be worse off on its trade account unless it expands food production, diversifies export crops and increases intra-regional com-

munity trading," he pointed out.

The United States has championed the ideal of free trade throughout much of the 20th century.

Under the Uruguay Round the FAO calculates that North America will export more cereals, fats, oils, meat and milk.

Its annual net farm exports will rise from \$15.1 billion to \$22.2 billion by the year 2000.

But the European Union, where farm protection is being cut, can expect a surge in imports.

The FAO says development is first and foremost the responsibility of our governments and peoples," says a draft of the document obtained by AFP.

Under the heading: "What we can do for ourselves," the agenda urges good governance, peace, democracy, and human rights.

And it calls for maximum support to the OAU Mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution and the peace fund.

The ministers would bear a report on Somalia during their meeting in the Egyptian capital which follows weekend talks by experts,

said Said Rifat, Egypt's deputy foreign minister for African affairs.

The Urugua Round is seen as a factor in turning an African agricultural export surplus in the late 1980s of \$1.0 billion to a deficit of \$300 million by the year 2000.

Africans set self-reliance as key to new action plan

CAIRO (AFP) — African foreign ministers are to launch Monday in Cairo a revamped economic and social development plan based on self-reliance, officials said.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), backed by the African Development Bank, prepared the "agenda for action" which acknowledges past failures and puts fresh emphasis on what the continent can do for itself.

"We reaffirm that Africa's development is first and foremost the responsibility of our governments and peoples," says a draft of the document obtained by AFP.

The FAO says western Europe is another loser from the 1994 Uruguay Round of tariff and subsidy cuts agreed under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

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"In this study North America, Australia and New Zealand make trade gains, while Europe loses. Africa, broadly speaking, will be worse off on its trade account unless it expands food production, diversifies export crops and increases intra-regional com-

munity trading," he pointed out.

Set aside at least one per cent of Gross Domestic Product for science and technology

— Give priority to basic infrastructure such as roads and water supply

— Restructure exports and expand intra-African trade

— Promote domestic and foreign investment and strengthen capital markets

— Pool resources to strengthen regional cooperation, promote multinational joint ventures

— Work out a scheme for industrial restructuring, expand exploration and use of natural resources

— Link telecommunications

— Establish an African Energy Commission and a single bureau of the Trans-African Highways Authority

The Cairo agenda also calls on creditors to help reduce the continent's debt burden, which stands at around \$300 billion according to the Egyptian foreign ministry, and particularly the levels of servicing debts.

It asks donors to set less stock by their own agendas and give greater understanding to Africa's priorities.

The document stresses the need to follow up closely the recommendations by creating a ministerial standing committee.

TAXES

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) is expected to place the health of the domestic economy ahead of the well-being of the dollar and hold off from raising interest rates at a policy-making meeting Tuesday, analysts said.

While the central bank would like to see the dollar worth more on the foreign currency market, it's not likely to raise rates now to try to bring that about — especially at a time when the U.S. economy is showing increasing signs of slowing.

"I'm sure they will discuss it (the weak dollar) at some length," said Scott Pardue, a former Fed official who is in New York. "But it won't force them to push up rates at this time."

The dollar dropped to yet another record low against the Japanese yen last week, before recovering slightly Friday. Since the start of the year it has fallen over 10 per cent against the yen and 8½ per cent against the German

Arab Gulf countries consider corporate tax

BEIJING (AFP) — China's top judicial officials have called for urgent action to curb the rising crime wave and official abuse of the legal system, warning that the country's economic development is at stake.

Chinese courts must "redouble efforts in strengthening the exercise of power to safeguard economic construction of the country," Supreme People's Court president Ren Jianxin said.

"More economic disputes will rise in the course of economic restructuring, and judicial bodies have to do away with the influence of local and departmental protectionism," Mr. Ren said.

Chinese courts handled more than a million economic disputes last year, with the number of cases involving overseas parties rising 20 per cent from 1993, Mr. Ren said, without providing comparative figures.

Mr. Ren urged courts nationwide to show impartiality when judging cases involving foreign parties and to "observe the stipulations of world conventions China has signed" as well as Chinese laws.

To ensure justice and the rights of all parties involved, he said courts across the country had been working hard to eliminate protectionism and encourage transparency in court proceedings.

Some 1,094 court staff were punished last year for illegal exercise of duty, including 34 judges who were given criminal sentences.

DISCOUNT

In the first stage each adult citizen will receive a package of options they can cash in for 2,000 shekels (\$670) worth of shares at a price of only 1,400 (\$468) to 1,600 shekels (\$535).

Some of Israel's most attractive companies will be candidates for the programme, including Israel Chemicals, Bezeq Israel Telecom, El Al Israel Airlines, the Zim shipping company and the four biggest banks.

In 1994, the government raised only \$205 million from privatisations although this year this number jumped to \$528 million in the first quarter alone.

HOROSCOPE

China's top judges warn of criminal threat to economy

Mr. Ren also warned of the threat posed by a rising crime wave, which saw the number of non-economic criminal cases handled by the courts increase 19.75 per cent from 1993 to 482,927 last year.

IPR work will be especially crucial this year, following the recent signing of a Sino-U.S. accord on copyright protection that involves close U.S. monitoring to ensure China follows through on its commitment to step up enforcement.

Meanwhile, Zhang Sining, head of the Supreme People's Procuratorate which handles public prosecutions, said last year's operations had focused on combating corruption and strengthening supervision over law enforcement.

Procuratorial organs nationwide handled more than 60,000 cases in 1994, 80 per cent of them involving graft, bribery, misuse of public funds and abuse of power.

Some 3.4 billion yuan (\$400 million) of illegally obtained funds were recovered.

Israeli panel okays privatisation options

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's ministerial economics committee has approved an options programme aimed at speeding up the government's privatisation process, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Sunday.

"I see in this decision a green light for the government to go ahead with this programme," Mr. Shohat told reporters.

Under the programme, which still needs final approval from parliament, the government plans to distribute to every citizen above the age of 18 options to buy shares in government companies and banks at a 20 to 30 per cent

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 27, 1995

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take steps to improve conditions at home and have more harmony there today. Remove any obstacles in the path of your progress towards ultimate success.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 18) Make sure you are living according to your philosophical beliefs. Make plans to improve your social life in the days ahead and you'll be happy.

Gemini: (May 21 to June 21) Find the right outlet for your special talents today. An intuitive suggestion could be erroneous now, so don't follow it or there could be trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have greater abundance in the future. Show increased devotion to family members today and you will have much love and appreciation in return.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Outline a course of action that could give you added income today. Plan how to stretch your budget and have more security in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put those ideas to work that will give you added prestige. A loyal friend can give valuable advice at this time for you to get what you want.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure not to comment about things you know little about. Be sensible in handling matters of communication at this time and there will be peace.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have fine creative ideas that need expression today. Allow time for recreational activities you enjoy with loved ones this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure that you carry through with new responsibilities. Show more consideration for a loved one or there could be problems.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new project you have in mind needs more study before you go ahead. Don't take any chance with your health in any of your activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An excellent time to catch up with your correspondence today. Concentrate on how to be more productive in the future and you will find more success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Come to a fine accord with family members early in the day. Try to please the one you are most fond of and there will be much affection in return.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

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mark.

Higher U.S. interest rates would make the dollar a more profitable currency for investors to hold. But the tighter credit would also tend to dampen U.S. economic growth by raising borrowing costs for companies and consumers.

The central bank's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee has already raised short-term rates seven times in the past year in an effort to engineer a soft landing for the high-flying U.S. economy and prevent a take-off of inflation.

There are increasing signs that the strategy is starting to work. Orders for durable goods such as cars and appliances fell in February for the first time in four months. Home building dropped last month to its lowest level in a year.

And automobile dealers are complaining about declining sales — in a letter sent to Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan last week urging him not

to raise rates further.

"The tea leaves seem to me to be showing a downshift in growth," central bank vice chairman Alan Blinder said.

In a clear signal that he does not believe the Fed should tighten credit further, Mr. Blinder told Reuters last week that he felt that monetary policy now was roughly balanced between the risk the Fed had raised interest rates too far or not enough.

"The most likely story is moderate growth through '96," added Fed Governor Lawrence Lindsey.

That raises the question whether the central bank has finished raising rates for the current business cycle.

David Berson, chief economist at the Federal National Mortgage Association expects the Fed to raise interest rates further — but only once more, possibly in May.

"They need to make sure growth slows... in order to keep inflation from moving up," Mr. Berson said.

THE Daily Crossword

by Janet R. Bender

ACROSS

1 Battle souvenir
5 Broad royal seal
8 Worth
14 Woody's son
16 Woods' son
17 Mine tunnels
21 Drudgery
23 Too fat to weigh
24 Leafy
25 Litter
26 It's mostly nitrogen
28 Motorists' ex
30 Snore
32 Tossing
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47 Exam for future
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Puzzle solved:

1. LAMIA 2. ANGELA 3. ALICE 4. ALICE 5. ALICE 6. ALICE 7. ALICE 8. ALICE 9. ALICE 10. ALICE 11. ALICE 12. ALICE 13. ALICE 14. ALICE 15. ALICE 16. ALICE 17. ALICE 18. ALICE 19. ALICE 20. ALICE 21. ALICE 22. ALICE 23. ALICE 24. ALICE 25. ALICE 26. ALICE 27. ALICE 28. ALICE 29. ALICE 30. ALICE 31. ALICE 32. ALICE 33. ALICE 34. ALICE 35. ALICE 36. ALICE 37. ALICE 38. ALICE 39. ALICE 40. ALICE 41. ALICE 4

**Business
Daily
Deal**

**FM
cancels
afternoon
trading
session**

* BEGINNING SATURDAY, April 1, 95, trading of shares and stocks at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) will be confined to the morning session between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. This means that there will no longer be any evening trading on Thursdays, Mondays and Wednesdays. The new timing extended the morning session half an hour as trading was previously conducted between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (Al Ra'i).

* THE CABINET approved setting up a national petroleum company with a nominal capital of JD 20 million and a concession for exploration. The company is wholly-owned by the Jordan Investment Corporation with the possibility of participation by other government entities. The cabinet also decided to form a committee to follow up on transforming the petroleum ministry at the Natural Resources Authority into a government company headed by the minister of energy and mineral resources (Al Ra'i).

* ACCORDING TO a senior official at the Central Bank, the new law on foreign exchange control allows any resident or non-resident person to hold any sum of foreign currencies in the Kingdom. Current regulations specify that a resident cannot hold more than the equivalent of JD 500,000 of foreign currencies. The second important change from the current law, is the permission for residents to make any currency payment in foreign currency whether the payment is for imported goods or an invisible service which, currently, is limited to the equivalent of JD 35,000 a year. The new law also obliges banks to deposit a 50 per cent foreign currency cash reserve at the Central Bank of all foreign currencies deposited with them by residents and non-residents. Under the current law, residents who receive foreign currency from outside the Kingdom cannot take it out for any reason. The new law permits taking out any sum of foreign currency if it is only upon proving that the money came from outside the Kingdom through the banking system. Non-residents are exempted from controls whether on current or capital payments (Al swaq).

* MORE THAN 50 people protested in front of the Minister of Agriculture's office against a decision to ban olive oil from the Central Bank. Noting that over 100 16-kilogramme containers were impounded at a bridge, the protesters claimed the containers were used and not for trade. They claimed how could they be the olive oil when the price of a container in the Central Bank was JD 65 and in Amman JD 35. The minister said the government has issued some 50,000 containers to be brought in as gifts that was enough. He said it was illogical to allow bringing in 1,000 containers olive oil a day and still exceed the volume as gifts, such, it should be considered as trade, the minister said. There is an agricultural agreement with the Palestinians and Jordan cannot permit olive oil imports when the Kingdom has an oversupply. (Aswag).

* THE JORDAN Mineral Company boosted its fit to JD 42,200 in 1994 and JD 29,600 in 1993. Net earnings from the spa amounted to JD 57,400 in 1994, an increase of 15 per cent over 1993, and from the hotel and bungalows JD 48,600. The company had JD 265,970 in total assets at end of last year (Al waq).

Insurers take steps against climate — related risks

BERLIN (R) — Insurers fear billions of dollars in extra claims could bankrupt some companies if global warming increases the frequency and severity of storms and droughts, industry representatives said Sunday.

While scientists still debate the impact of "greenhouse gases" like carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other man-made factors on the atmosphere, insurers say climate-related catastrophes have already increased significantly in the past decade.

And while the link between global warming and weather run amok has not yet been conclusively estab-

lished, insurers are taking steps to see that their own risks are covered.

For consumers, this could mean coverage limits, higher deductibles and higher premiums. Some people will not be able to buy adequate property insurance at any price, said Frank Nutter, president of the Reinsurance Association of America.

A severe storm striking Miami or the northeastern United States could cause more than \$50 billion in damage, nearly one-third the \$180 billion capital base of the entire U.S. insurance industry. Some companies would be wiped out.

"If we are in a period of a series of extreme events that are not prepared for, we could see major insolvencies," Mr. Nutter told a conference sponsored by the environmentalist group Greenpeace.

In Britain, a sudden need for disaster-related outlays of £5 billion to £10 billion (£8 billion to \$16 billion) would be critical for the industry, said Andrew Dlugolecki, chief manager of operations at General Accident.

The industry must begin to recognise the dangers, but it is still conservative and slow to do so," said Rolf Gerling, president of the Gerling Institute for Risk Research in Zurich, a reinsurance company.

The conference was timed to coincide with the start of a two-week U.N. gathering here to discuss what should be done to limit the impact of CO₂ emissions on the earth's climate.

Most scientists agree the earth is getting warmer because of the "greenhouse effect" in which gases such as CO₂ or methane trap a growing amount of the sun's warmth in the atmosphere.

This may be causing more frequent and severe storms in some regions and drought or flooding in others.

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, industrialised nations agreed to roll back CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

The Berlin conference aims to review progress towards this end and try to set goals into the next century, including commitments from developing countries, but political wrangling has reduced chances for a breakthrough.

Climate concerns are already blocking development of tourist resorts and World Bank-funded infrastructure projects in developing countries because they can get insurance, Mr. Dlu-

golecki said.

After hurricane Andrew caused about \$17 billion of damage when it hit Florida in 1992, insurance companies raised consumers' premiums by around a quarter and put limits on coverage.

Reinsurance companies, which underwrite insurance companies' risk exposure, raised their premiums by 400 to 500 per cent after hurricane Andrew. They also capped coverage and raised deductible so that direct insurers' costs were effectively increased even more, Mr. Nut-

ter said.

Governments have kept insurance companies from retreating completely from high-risk markets. Florida, for example, passed a law that would require any insurance company wanting to pull out of the state to spread its withdrawal over 20 years.

But the industry will be looking for increased partnership with government to cover its risks.

"Only the government has the financial resources to cope with risks of this scale," Mr. Nutter said.

De Beers says Russian diamond sales hit earnings

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The De Beers diamond multinational has announced a seven per cent drop in 1994 earnings, blaming a recent trend by Russia of selling rough diamonds directly to the market.

But De Beers Chairman Julian Ogilvie Thompson said he was confident Russia would sign a new marketing contract with its London-based Central Selling Organisation (CSO), which in recent years has handled 80 per cent of world gem diamond sales.

Russia's present contract runs out at the end of this year.

The combined attributable earnings of South African-based De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd and Swiss-based De Beers Centenary A.G. fell seven per cent to \$555 million, although worldwide retail sales of diamond jewellery rose four per cent to a new record.

The Centenary arm houses the group's foreign interests.

Mr. Ogilvie Thompson told a news briefing he hoped the Russian authorities would sign on again to the CSO marketing system, through which producers across the globe channelled sales.

"Discussions are continuing with the Russian authorities in the hope of remedying the situation and negotiating a new contract to succeed the present one," he said. "I believe we shall suc-

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSE OF STOCK EXCHANGE TRADING			ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 26/03/1995		
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES ISSUED	VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	PREV. DAY PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHARGE
ARAB BANK P/C	200	37475	187.000	187.500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2050	92155	4.390	4.450	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2300	99356	4.280	4.320	
THE HOUSING BANK	1200	12500	1.500	1.550	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	6500	39325	6.040	6.050	
JORDAN GULF BANK	1546	44822	2.900	2.900	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1500	17500	1.170	1.160	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	900	33844	3.760	3.760	
JORDAN CREDIT FINANCE BANK	240	54400	3.010	3.010	
HEIT HELMI INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2000	70011	3.020	3.020	
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	23000	25530	1.110	1.110	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1050	1281	1.230	1.220	
S A N K S S E C T O R	42610	141592	INDEX NUMBER: 158.15	INDEX NUMBER: 158.21	CHANGE: +0.23%
JORDAN INSURANCE	1007	3273	3.250	3.250	
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	10500	19900	1.850	1.800	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	9650	24338	2.510	2.520	
I N S U R A N C E S E C T O R	21157	47511	INDEX NUMBER: 134.37	INDEX NUMBER: 134.37	CHANGE: -0.12%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	1350	2093	1.550	1.550	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	1800	2700	1.490	1.500	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1200	12500	1.450	1.450	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	2750	13770	4.950	5.050	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1500	4445	2.360	2.350	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	350	660	1.900	1.880	
NATIONAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	200	232	1.150	1.160	
QUDSIYA TRADING & EXPORT TRADING CENTER	800	4750	2.120	2.120	
MACHINERY EQUIP., REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	2000	1200	1.450	1.450	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALMA'AT	280	2682	10.400	10.300	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	100	232	2.280	2.280	
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	11545	38194	3.360	3.280	
S E R V I C E S S E C T O R	29325	84045	INDEX NUMBER: 126.10	INDEX NUMBER: 126.10	CHANGE: +0.23%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	18300	54890	2.990	3.000	
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	700	3115	4.450	4.450	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1950	7830	4.030	4.010	
ARAB PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1700	17400	5.000	5.000	
ARAB PAPER MANUFACTURING	2800	7200	2.680	2.680	
SPINNING & WEAVING	2000	8000	4.000	4.000	
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	1550	3885	2.500	2.510	
JORDAN AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1100	8800	7.800	7.800	
ARAB AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2600	3096	5.850	5.860	
ARAB ALIMENTATION INDUSTRY	2600	16585	6.400	6.410	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	31550	20192	.630	.640	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2150	3010	1.400	1.400	
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	9700	20127	2.000	2.100	
JORDAN SCHOOL LIBRARIES	100	7500	1.150	1.150	
JORDAN TEXTILES & MANUFACTURE	5200	3431	1.550	1.550	
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	1750	7743	4.380	4.400	
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	12800	216676	1.390	1.460	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	36000	18627	2.210	2.250	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1250	12665	3.510	3.550	
T H O R N S T O R Y S E C T O R	123288	304118	INDEX NUMBER: 118.29	INDEX NUMBER: 118.41	CHANGE: +0.19%
G R A N D T O T A L	216380	577266	INDEX NUMBER: 139.41	INDEX NUMBER: 139.41	CHANGE: +0.22%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		56237			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		70748			

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Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, wearing white cap, is escorted from the release from prison March 25 (AFP photo)

Tyson arrives home

SOUTHBURG, Ohio — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson returned on Saturday to his mansion in eastern Ohio after three years in prison, as the boxing world anxiously waited to see if he can mount a comeback.

Tyson's five-car caravan arrived at his Southburg, Ohio, mansion, turning through wrought-iron gates adorned with yellow ribbons and driving up to the stone and wood home.

"Mike, welcome back to your family," read a sign hung on the mansion's split-rail fence.

The crowd of about 100 reporters, fans and neighbors that had been gathering since dawn stirred as the cars approached. One group of youths cheered. Other homes were also festooned with yellow ribbons and driving up to the stone and wood home.

"We're pleased to have Mike home," said Jim Abrams, who lives across the street in a more modest home.

Tyson left prison at dawn after three years behind bars for the rape of an 18-year-old beauty pageant

contestant Desiree Washington, and was led to a waiting black stretch limousine surrounded by bodyguards and his promoter, Don King.

Tyson, wearing an Islamic prayer cap, did not acknowledge the crowds at his mansion nor the media horde waiting outside the Indiana youth centre near Indianapolis, where he was incarcerated.

But reporters at the prison were given a written statement saying: "I'm very happy to be out and on my way home. I want to thank everyone for their support. I will have more to say in the future."

His car sped off from the prison, tracked aloft by four news helicopters.

Tyson, who converted to Islam two years ago, stopped with his group at a mosque near plainfield, where his spiritual advisor had invited him to morning prayer.

He spent an hour inside and was joined by former heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali, who converted to Islam many years ago, and by rap singer M.C. Hammer.

He then headed to the Indianapolis Airport where he boarded a private jet to Cleveland.

In leaving prison, Tyson traded a cramped cell and 65-cents-an-hour prison wage for 2,787 square metre, 14-room mansion where he had reportedly kept a fleet of 30 telephone-equipped cars.

How much is left of the estimated \$100 million he grossed in the ring remained in question. Published reports have suggested that his handlers and legal fees have depleted his fortune, putting pressure on the once-fearsome fighter to jump back into the ring.

Deals worth millions have already been speculated on and Tyson has said he would like to fight again. He has been quoted as saying he is now, at age 28, wiser and wiser.

Tyson was 20 in 1986 when he became the youngest man ever to win the world heavyweight crown. He lost it in 1990 to knockout by James "buster" Douglas in Tokyo in one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.

KEY BISCAYNE (Agencies) — Steffi Graf surpassed the \$15 million mark in career prize money and moved closer to the world's number one ranking by winning the \$4.1 million Lipton Championships title Saturday.

The second-seeded Graf successfully defended her Lipton crown by beating seventh seed Kimiko Date of Japan 6-1 6-4.

Graf collected \$205,000 for her fourth Lipton title, boosting her career winnings to \$15,005,490 — fifth on the all-time list behind Ivan Lendl, Martina Navratilova, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker.

The 78-minute match was not one of Graf's finest performances, with the German star committing 29 unforced errors. But Date, who came back from 6-1 5-1 down to beat Gabriela Sabatini in her semifinal, had 38 miscues of her own.

It was expected to be a romp for Graf with Date suffering from a sore shoulder, and Graf did not disappoint in the first set. She raced to a 5-0 lead before the ninth-ranked Date could win a game, holding serve for 5-1.

Graf began to look shaky in the next game, double-faulting to reach 30-all, but she produced a forehand winner and a cleverly disguised dropshot to win the set.

"She played very good today," said Date, who earned \$103,000 as runner-up. "I tried very hard but I couldn't do anything."

The resilient Date remained undeterred in the second set, despite dropping serve in the opening game. She kept her groundstrokes hard and flat, forcing errors from Graf.

Graf regained control of the match by breaking Date for 3-2 en route to a 5-3 lead. Date won one more game, but as storm clouds gathered, Graf beat the rain by serving out the match with a punishing forehand that Date netted.

"It felt great," said Graf of the victory that gave her



Steffi Graf

third title of the year.

Graf, who lost her number one ranking to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario when injuries kept her from defending titles early in the year, has now put together a 14-0 match record

corde on Monday and fly to Europe for next weekend's second-round Davis Cup match between the United States and Italy.

"I couldn't ask for a better teammate," Agassi said.

And he couldn't ask for a better opponent. The friendly rivals meet for the third time this year in the final at the Lipton Championships.

Sampras will remain top-ranked regardless of the outcome.

Agassi, ranked No. 2, beat Sampras in the final at the Australian Open in January. Sampras beat Agassi in the final at Indian Wells this month.

Following the latter match, Agassi said in a courtside television interview, "don't worry, dad. I'll kick Pete's butt next week."

After advancing to Sunday's final, Agassi said, "everything is according to plan so far."

Agassi has a 46-4 record since the start of last year's U.S. Open. Sampras is 20-3 in 1995, holds an 8-6 edge on Agassi and is seeking his third consecutive Lipton title.

Sampras shook off a stomach ailment to beat Agassi in last year's final. Both know what to expect this time.

"I'll be coming in," Sampras said, "and he'll be staying back."

Each survived a scare from a Swede in Friday's semifinals. Agassi won the final seven points to beat Magnus Larsson 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-1). Sampras recovered from a slow start to win 10 consecutive games and beat Jonas Bjorkman 4-6, 6-0, 6-1.

"These two guys," Bjorkman said, "are probably the ones dominating men's tennis now."

The two Americans are enjoying the rivalry. They're quick to praise each other, and Sampras had no problem with Agassi's brash pledge following the Indian Wells final.

"He was just having some fun," Sampras said. "It wasn't anything malicious. I'm sure he wants to beat me, and you know I want to beat him."

Italy's win fails to silence critics

SALERNO, Italy — Italy head for a key European championship qualified with Ukraine in Kiev on Wednesday in an uneasy frame of mind after a 4-1 win over Estonia failed to silence their critics.

"Italy wake up after the jitters," was the verdict of daily La Repubblica, summing up the lukewarm media reaction to Saturday's win over the group four whipping boys.

The Italians struggled until Gianfranco Zola put them ahead in the 45th minute with his first international goal. Milan midfielder Demetrio Albertini, Zola and debutant striker Fabrizio Ravanelli netted again for Italy in the second half.

Estonia scored their first goal of the qualifiers through substitute Martin Reim in the 72nd minute.

Croatia's 4-0 hammering of Ukraine in Zagreb on Saturday reinforced their position at the head of the group. Croatia have a maximum 12 points from, followed by Italy with seven points while Lithuania are third on six but with a game in hand. Ukraine have four points from four games.

Second place in the group should be enough to take Italy, who did not qualify for the 1992 tournament, to the finals in England next year.

The six second-placed teams with the best records qualify directly while the remaining two group runners-up meet in a play-off for the last spot.

But the latest patchy performance from the World Cup runners-up rekindled tensions between coach Arrigo Sacchi and the Italian media.

"Clearly some journalists are used to seeing such great cage matches that the national team pales by comparison," Sacchi said on Sunday as his strategy.

"I don't think I would have had the same things if an Italian club had won 4-1 in a European match."

Dominante parma attacker Zola, winning his 11th cap, as the undoubted star, his individual skill injecting some life into Italy's sometimes ponderous approach play.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Russian Kremlyova falls dope test

MOSCOW (R) — Russian middle-distance runner Lubov Kremlyova is to be disqualified for four years after failing a dope test. Valentin Balanichev, president of the Russian Athletics Federation, said Saturday, Kremlyova, 34, won the 1,500 bronze medal at the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona earlier this month. "Unfortunately she has broken the rules of IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation)," Balanichev told reporters. "It's a pity, but we will have to part with her," he added.

Braves replacement pitcher killed

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — The Atlanta Braves' spring training exhibition game with the Montreal Expos was cancelled Saturday because of the death of replacement pitcher David Shotkowski in an apparent robbery. Shotkowski, 30, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, was found dead on the sidewalk in front of an office high rise near the team hotel about 6:45 p.m. Braves general manager John Schuerholz said Saturday the team was offering a \$5,000 reward for "any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for this tragic and senseless death."

Porto wins to hold 4-point lead

LISBON (R) — Porto retained their four-point lead over Sporting in the Portuguese first division soccer title race when they beat Chaves 2-0 at home Saturday. Sporting kept in touch with a laboured 1-0 win over struggling Beira Mar but with eight games to go Porto are favourites to take the title. Porto, coached by former England manager Bobby Robson, head the table with 47 points followed by Sporting with 43. Reigning champions Benfica lie third with 37 points and a match in hand. Porto scored both goals in the first half.

Clinton: baseball fans losing interest

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Saturday warned Major League Baseball owners and players that they face the "ultimate hazard" of losing the loyalty of fans if their strike drags on much longer. "I think both the players and the owners have to be aware that ultimately this game depends upon the fans," Clinton said in an interview with ESPN radio. "And if fans finally get sick of it and decide they'd rather do something else, that's not good for baseball," said Clinton.

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Graf's earnings reach \$15m mark with Lipton final win over Date



Andre Agassi

third title of the year.

Graf, who lost her number one ranking to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario when injuries kept her from defending titles early in the year, has now put together a 14-0 match record

before the final and I haven't had that for a while."

Still, she admits, she has a way to go to recapture her former unshakable confidence.

"I was a little bit nervous

before the final and I haven't had that for a while."

Sampras and Agassi teammates and rivals

Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras will board the Con-

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Israel optimistic in talks with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli and Syrian ambassadors held more talks at the weekend in Washington amid growing expectations of a breakthrough in peace negotiations, Israeli officials said here Sunday.

The ambassadors of the two countries in the United States, Itamar Rabinovitch of Israel and Walid Moualem of Syria, met Friday and Saturday and were due to hold more talks on Sunday, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Dennis Ross, the special U.S. coordinator on the peace process, attended the sessions.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Israel Radio that he expected concrete results from these talks.

"The atmosphere is relatively positive and in my opinion the impression is that the latest stands taken by Damascus must be considered to be rather moderate," Mr. Sarid said.

"Let's hope that something constructive will come out of these discussions," he added.

Mr. Sarid said: "It was very difficult to speak of a date or timetable" for a resumption of talks between the two countries' chiefs of staff, who met each other for the first time on Dec. 22 but made no apparent progress.

"But one can say that if we are satisfied with security arrangements (on the Golan) and if we are satisfied with the rhythm and character of the normalisation (of relations), then we will take a decision on the withdrawal

from the Golan Heights," he said.

An Israeli official told the Haaretz newspaper that it will only be known at the end of the week what the chances are for restarting negotiations between the top generals.

The two ambassadors met Monday and Tuesday, for their first talks in three months following a Middle East tour by U.S. tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Masharaka assails Syria

Syrian Vice-President Zuhair Masharaka accused Israel of rejecting peace and drawing up a plan to dominate the Arab World, in an interview published Sunday.

"Israel is drawing up a plan to target the future of the Arab world," Mr. Masharaka told Al Baath newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling party.

"The Jewish state wanted to be a nuclear power in the region and 'create a new Middle East where it would reign supreme,'" he said.

He added that Israel was only looking to impose its hegemony on the Arab World by dominating it politically, economically, militarily and culturally."

"If the peace process launched more than three years ago has not produced results, it's because of the intransigence of Israel which refuses to implement international resolutions," said Mr. Masharaka, one of Syria's three vice presidents.



ASSAULT ON TUZLA: Bosnian Serb soldiers cover their ears while firing heavy mortar shells from their positions on Mount Majevica, which overlooks the Bosnian Muslim stronghold of Tuzla, some 160 kilometres north of the

capital Sarajevo. Heavy fighting between Muslim-led Bosnian government troops and Bosnian Serbs continues in the area (see inside) (AFP photo)

Work under way on water project tenders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Experts have started work on drawing up tender documents inviting offers to conduct feasibility studies on water projects called for in the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, and the bidding process for the projects could begin in April, senior Jordanian negotiator Munther Haddadin said Sunday.

Dr. Haddadin, who heads the Kingdom's negotiations on water-related issues, said the cost of the projects, which include two dams and diversion structures, was estimated at \$535 million.

The European Union (EU) is financing the feasibility studies of the projects with a grant of 11 million European currency units (about \$14 million). The EU has also indicated that it would be willing to finance the construction of the projects depending on the outcome of the feasibility studies.

The financing will be in the form of a loan from the European Development Bank, the monetary arm of the EU, while the grant for the feasibility studies is coming directly from the 15-nation European bloc.

The final touches to the EU grant were put during a visit His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid two weeks ago to Bonn, where he held talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Assistant European Commissioner Manfred Merin.

Part of the talks was also attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Israel and Jordan agreed in February that the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) will manage the projects.

"A European consultant firm has already started drawing up the bid documents and we expect the documents to be ready in a month," Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

The contracts are expected to be awarded soon after receiving the bids, with the completion date for the studies tentatively set as end of June. The construction of the projects will depend on securing financing and then the process of tendering the construction contracts. No dates were immediately available for this process.

The peace treaty also calls for a desalination plant to be built in Israeli territory to provide 50 million cubic metres of water to Jordan every year.

"This is an Israeli responsibility," said Dr. Haddadin. Reports in the Israeli press have estimated the cost of the proposed plant at \$50 million.

Israel, whose annual per capita income around \$12,000, does not qualify for outright assistance for the project from the European Union.

The peace treaty provides for Jordan to get 215 million cubic metres of water through dam diversion structures and the desalination plant in addition to about 110 million to 120 million cubic metres of water it is already using from the Yarmouk River.

The completion of all projects is expected to take up to two years.

In the meantime, work on a 3.5-kilometre pipeline to bring Lake Tiberias water in northern Israel to King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley is expected to be completed in May so that Jordan could start getting up to 30 million cubic metres of water every year by May 15 as part of the 215 million cubic metres stipulated in the treaty.

The contract for the JD 3.5 million pipeline is undertaken locally and paid for by the Jordanian government.

The pipeline will bring 20 million cubic metres of Lake Tiberias water between May 15 and Oct. 15. Israel will provide another 10 million cubic metres.

A state of alert was declared in all Jewish communities in the area, including Karem Shalom in Israel, settlers said.

Under the accords that launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho last May, Israel provides security at international borders and at Gaza's Jewish settlements.

Ali Mahdi says Aideed is bringing back chaos

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Self-styled Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohammad lashed out here on Sunday against his bitter rival General Mohammed Farah Aideed, accusing him of leading Somalia back into chaos.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in northern Mogadishu, Mr. Ali Mahdi charged that General Aideed was trying to "lead Somalia into chaos again by undermining agreements reached in Mogadishu on Feb. 20 by our two main factions to minimize possibilities of war that led to the reopening of the port of Mogadishu."

Appealing to Somalis not to start killing each other, Mr. Ali Mahdi said Gen. Aideed had shown reluctance to accept a broad-based national conference.

"Our goodwill gesture has been undermined and all the agreements reached so far may collapse," Mr. Ali Mahdi said in the first sign of an open disagreement between him and Gen. Aideed since the departure 23 days ago of the last U.N. peacekeepers.

Mr. Ali Mahdi said that a committee negotiating the reconciliation between his faction and Gen. Aideed's faction had organized a new government.

Mr. Ali Mahdi said that over 10 regional and 58 district councils were established and certified by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), but none works yet because of lack of authority due to Gen. Aideed's feet-dragging.

"One can't collect taxes without the ministry of finance and you can't have Mogadishu's authority as well when you don't have the minister of interior," Mr. Ali Mahdi said.

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Rabbani in new Offensive

KADAI HAIDAR KHAN (AP) — Heavy artillery rounds blasted the mountains southwest of Kabul on Sunday as presidential troops launched a ground assault against the rival taliban militia.

Behind the front lines, near the village of Kadai Haidar Khan, about 17 kilometres southwest of Kabul, President Burhanuddin Rabbani's men prepared for battle.

With rocket launchers slung over their shoulders and automatic rifles at their feet, the soldiers recited a verse from the Holy Koran and prayed they would return safely. Then they piled aboard tanks and headed towards the front-line about 10 kilometres away.

Government soldiers are pitted against the Talibans, a group made up mostly of former Islamic theology students.

"We want to break their front line and push them out," said Abdullah, Defense Ministry spokesman, who uses only one name.

The government claimed to have captured several Taliban positions in the mountainous areas.

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U.S., N. Korea silent on nuclear reactor talks

BERLIN (R) — The United States and North Korea on Sunday ended a second day of talks aimed at breaking a deadlock over the future of Pyongyang's nuclear programme with both sides declining to say whether any progress was made.

U.S. and North Korean delegations met at North Korea's old embassy to the former communist East Germany for more than three hours to try to salvage a crucial U.S.-backed plan to steer Pyongyang away from building nuclear weapons.

A North Korean spokesman said the two sides would meet again at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) on Monday at the U.S. mission in eastern Berlin.

"They will not be meeting again this afternoon. Talks will resume tomorrow," the spokesman said.

A diplomatic source said the two delegations spent the rest of the day working with their respective teams and possibly contacting their capitals. Negotiations were scheduled to last until Wednesday at the earliest.

The Berlin talks stem from a key U.S.-North Korean accord signed in Geneva last October under which Pyongyang pledged to freeze its nuclear programme and stop building two new graphite-moderated reactors.

In exchange, the communist state was promised safer light-water reactors for by a consortium of the United States, South Korea and Japan in a package which will cost them \$4.5 billion.

Graphite reactors produce more of the plutonium that can be used for making nuclear arms.

The agreement averted a serious crisis over North Korea's atomic industry, which the West suspected was a cover for a secret nuclear arms programme.

Concern began to emerge in 1992 when inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that North Korea had more plutonium than it was admitting.

The Berlin talks were snatched on Pyongyang's opposition to accepting light-water reactors from its arch-rival South Korea.

North Korean negotiators, led by top foreign trade official Kim Jong-U, have ruled out South Korean technology ever since the Berlin round of technical talks began last September.

Pyonyang favours a nuclear plant model from Germany's Siemens, or from the United States or France.

Minister who lost memory may lose post

HONIARA (AFP) — A Solomon Islands cabinet minister who lost his memory in a car accident is likely to lose his post, Solomon Islands Broadcasting reported Sunday. Energy Minister Eric Seri suffered head injuries in the accident last November.

According to Health Minister Gordon Mara, Mr. Seri is medically unfit to continue as a member of parliament. Mr. Mara said the energy minister's future will be decided by Governor General Moses Pitakata and Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni.

Chocolate addicts got a real kick

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian chocolate factory owner put drugs into his product to try to hook clients, a government newspaper reported. The owner, who was not named by the Akbar Al-Sabti daily, called the brand "Sublime Garden" and hoped to make a fortune. But the chocolate sold in Banksia province, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Cairo, turned children pale and gave them convulsions. Their parents complained to the authorities who launched an investigation.

Police discovered that drugs were mixed into the bars of chocolate and arrested the man, who had a record of drug-trafficking.

Another Dhaka English daily hits news stands

DHAKA (AFP) — The independent, Dhaka's seventh English-language daily, hit the newsstands Sunday coinciding with the celebration of Bangladesh's 24th Independence Day. With a 40-page inaugural colour issue, the paper is edited by Syed Mahboob Alam Chowdhury and owned by Beimco Media Ltd., subsidiary of the country's leading Beimco industry and business house. It joins Bangladesh's extensive press, that includes some 45 listed dailies in Dhaka alone.

Lack of funding threatens Iraq relief programmes

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Relief programmes providing the Iraqi people with basic needs since the imposition of United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iraq in August 1990, face collapse if international donors do not come up with financing, an aid official has warned.

At a meeting in Geneva last week, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) appealed for \$188 million, but head of Care Australia Brian Doolan estimated the total amount to arise from the call would be about \$25 million.

The economic isolation of Iraq has resulted in a humanitarian emergency," Mr. Doolan said. "The comments came after the discovery of a major network smuggling the treasures to Britain.

rent isolation cannot be continued unless the international community is prepared to address the humanitarian needs of the people of Iraq."

He noted that the humanitarian programme in Iraq was set up when U.N. members voted for it after imposing international sanctions against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In addition, he said, non-functional sewerage and sanitation facilities are leading to children using playground areas as toilets. Classroom facilities are poor with a "chronic" lack of paper, blackboards and desks. "Children are sitting five to six at a desk. Even if there was paper to write on, there isn't enough space to do so," he said.

Children, Mr. Doolan

said, are the most vulnerable group exposed to the devastating effects of the sanctions.

"Children will carry the legacy of the sanctions. Children with malnutrition cannot learn," he said, adding that a representative of Medical Aid for Iraq told the Geneva meeting that all children presented at clinics showed mild to severe malnutrition.

In addition, he said, non-functional sewerage and sanitation facilities are leading to children using playground areas as toilets.

Classroom facilities are poor with a "chronic" lack of paper, blackboards and desks. "Children are sitting five to six at a desk. Even if there was paper to write on, there isn't enough space to do so," he said.

The agency is a major implementing partner for

bowls, no school books,

and no glass in the windows.

We're penalising the children, stopping them from getting an education. Do we want an ignorant Iraq?"

Care Australia, which represents Care International in Iraq, is one of two international, permanent NGOs operating in central and southern Iraq under official agreements with the Iraqi government.

Care International was established after World War II and now consists of 11 member nations. Care Australia, set up in 1987, is one of those member nations and represents the whole agency in Iraq, Yemen, Mauritania and Jordan, where its regional office is located.

The agency is a major implementing partner for

(Continued on page 7)

Israel seizes 2 infiltrators

GAZA (Agencies) — The Israeli army said on Sunday it captured two wanted guerrillas who crossed the border from Egypt trying to enter the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Two other wanted Hamas men eluded the army and slipped into Gaza, it said.

Hamas leads violent opposition to the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, under which Israel handed over control of most of the Gaza Strip to Palestinians last May. Israeli forces continue to patrol a border strip between Gaza and Egypt.

"Two Palestinian armed members of Hamas wanted by Israeli security forces, were arrested by the army overnight as they attempted to enter the self-rule area from Egyptian territory," an army spokesman said.

"Two others succeeded in escaping to the territory of the Palestinian Authority."

Israel has discovered hand tunnels leading from one side of the border to the other, filling them to prevent Palestinians from crossing the border illicitly.

Palestinian police in Gaza said they released overnight a Hamas spiritual leader detained for questioning on Friday.

Hamas had strongly condemned the police for detaining Sheikh Mohammad Sham'a, preacher at a mosque in the Shati refugee camp.

Palestinian police have detained dozens of Hamas activists in a crackdown on Hamas, which has launched a series of deadly attacks on Israeli targets.

Jewish communities in the Gaza Strip went on alert after the army reported that the two were killed.

A state of alert was declared in all Jewish communities in the area, including Karem Shalom in Israel, settlers said.

Under the accords that launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho last May, Israel provides security at international borders and at Gaza's Jewish settlements.

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Column 8

Flowers claims Clinton did inhale

NEW YORK (AP) — Gardner Flowers knew Bill Clinton as an occasional marijuana smoker who carried his own joints and once talked about getting high on cocaine, according to excerpts from her new book in New York magazine. "By the way, he most certainly did inhale," Flowers writes in "